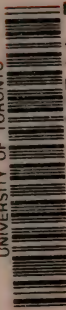



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MEMOIRS
OF A
TRAVELLER,
NOW IN RETIREMENT.

MEMOIRS
OF A
TRAVELLER,
NOW IN RETIREMENT.
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.
INTERSPERSED WITH
HISTORICAL, LITERARY, AND POLITICAL
ANECDOTES,
RELATIVE TO
MANY OF THE PRINCIPAL PERSONAGES
OF THE PRESENT AGE.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH, UNDER THE SUPER-
INTENDANCE OF THE AUTHOR.

IN FIVE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

Dulcis inexpertis cultura potentis amici,
Expertus metuit. — *HOR. lib. I. epist. 18. v. 86.*

LONDON:

Printed for RICH. PHILLIPS, No. 6, Bridge-street,
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1806.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

WISHING to present my Readers with nothing but what is strictly true, I ought in justice to inform them, that the adventure related in the fourth chapter of the fifth part, is entirely a fiction, invented for the purpose of amusing a lady, at a time when she was in a melancholy situation.

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Erratum.

Page 82, line 12, for Huntington, read Huntingtour.

MEMOIRS
OF A
TRAVELLER.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

*Birth, Education, and Character of
Duchillou.**

My family is of the greatest antiquity; the only difficulty is to trace it. My name, like that of the Montmorencies,

* *Duchillou* was the name of a small estate belonging to my family, and was given to the younger brothers. It was that which I bore in my youth, and which I assume now; although in my intercourse with the world, I have always borne the name of my parents.

is lost in the obscurity of distant ages. Moréri mentions one of the same name who was esquire to the Emperor Charlemagne, and lived to the age of 360 years. Another was at the siege of Rochelle under Henry IV, and commanded the engineers. D'Aubigné in his Universal History speaks of him, and even relates a story of a miracle which Heaven wrought in his favour. But, not to dwell upon these prodigies, I shall only say that Bernier, in his History of Blois, considers my ancestors to have been originally of Mer, a little town about four leagues from that city.

My forefathers were protestants: Moréri notices one of them who zealously supported Calvin in the reformation. My father, firmly attached to the principles in which he had been educated, went to settle in England; but, the climate proving unfavourable
to

to his health, he was obliged to return to France. He soon afterwards married at Paris, and then retired to his native province, where he entirely devoted himself, to the education of a numerous family.

It is universally known with what difficulty the comforts of life are obtained by protestants in France;* every avenue to fortune and distinction is closed against them; and so far from receiving encouragement in their enterprises, they are barely tolerated: yet, in spite of these obstacles, thanks to the mildness and probity of his character, which gained the love and esteem of his fellow citizens, my father led a tolerably pleasant and tranquil life, and

B 2

was

* The reader is requested, once for all, to bear it particularly in mind, that these Memoirs were written between the years 1775 and 1805.

was happy in the bosom of his family. The love and tenderness of the best of wives, the docility and good disposition of seven children reared under his own eye, were gratifications sufficient for an honest and unambitious man. Our education was the principal object of his attention ; and the great success which followed his care of mine raised the most flattering expectations in his mind, and constituted his greatest pleasure. I was scarcely ten years old when I wrote comedies, which, it will be easily imagined, possessed no other merit than that of amusing him ; I made enigmas for the *Mercure de France*, madrigals for my female friends, and epigrams upon the occurrences of the day ; in short, before I had attained the age of twelve I had established my reputation as the *bel-esprit* of the neighbourhood. All the praises, however,
which

which my father's friends lavished upon me did not excite my pride, nor corrupt my understanding: I was preserved from the consequences which generally result from the great and blind indulgence of parents towards their children, by a natural timidity and bashfulness which made me shrink from the favourable opinion entertained of my rising merit; I was, however, flattered by perceiving that my trifling talents were thought well of; and I was so much encouraged by the idea of being praised by those who were superior to myself and my ardour for study increased to such a degree that I passed whole nights in reading, in order truly to merit the high encomiums which they were pleased to bestow on me. Unfortunately I did not apply myself to such studies as were the best calculated to improve my heart or my understanding.

ing. The histories of Amadis de Gaul, the Knights of the Round Table, and other heroes of romance, formed for several years, my favourite course of reading. I went to school to an Abbé, who was very fond of me, and who indulged me with the free use of his library. There I found a most complete collection of the best novels and French poets, with the study of which, my mind was so incessantly occupied, that I was very near re-acting some of the scenes of the renowned hero of La Mancha: I mention this circumstance to shew the danger of exposing youth to a species of reading, which may corrupt their judgment or their morals. My master generally found me in his library, and, in the intervals between school hours, we sometimes played at chess together. I had learnt this game when I was only five years old, and did not play badly;

in

in truth, I frequently beat my master ; but I soon discovered that my victory always put him in an ill humour, and that there were opportunities when he took a sort of revenge, which made me smart for my skill. From that time I had prudence enough to lose, whenever I was afraid, that I had not succeeded very well with my theme ; and thus sacrificed my *amour propre* for the preservation of my back, and the blessing of peace : not that the tempest always fell upon myself ; for my school-fellows often received the penalty of my triumphs, and I scarcely ever gave check-mate without some of them receiving a check of a more disagreeable sort. They therefore used to bribe me to lose ; and thus, I may say, that I found means of levying a tax upon them, the very opposite to a *poll-tax*.

My avidity for reading soon ex-

hausted the whole stock of romances and poets ; and I therefore began early to read history and works of morality and taste, which served to improve my mind. At length I attained that age when the heart of youth is agitated by emotions new and inexplicable ; a sentiment painful, yet sweet, at once the source of inquietude and delights.—In short, I loved—and, being but a boy, I cherished my passion without daring to declare it, and was even in perpetual fear, least it should be detected. I carried this timidity to the most ridiculous excess ; and though the object of my attachment was of a rank by no means calculated to inspire awe, being only the daughter of a schoolmaster, she might have seen me, two or three times a day, during a whole year, walking past her door, without any other demonstration of my love, than the profound reverence which

I never

I never failed to make whenever I saw her. At length a favourable opportunity arrived ; I had a relation, whose father had sent him from a distant province to be educated with the father of this adored object. From that moment my relation, to whom at any other time I should scarcely have paid any attention, became most dear to me ; I visited him every day, and lost no opportunity of seeing the charming girl who was the object of my visits : my love increased almost to madness, she was not backward in discovering my situation, and perceiving that she had a novice to deal with, did not hesitate to make the usual proposal of marriage.

I was no less willing than she, provided we could have been married privately ; for I dreaded the anger of my father, who was not a man likely to approve such a match : but that was a circumstance

cumstance of little weight with my mistress, who gave me no rest until I had promised to solicit my father's consent to our union. No sooner had I quitted her, than I perceived the folly of such a project, and from time to time invented some new pretence for delaying it ; but my arguments were unavailing, and I found that I must either adopt that measure, or resolve to see her no more, an alternative which I could not bear to think of. I therefore summoned all my courage, and availing myself of an opportunity when my father was enjoying the cool air of evening in his garden, I joined him ; flattering myself that the shades of twilight would assist my resolution to unburthen my mind to him. At length I spoke,—but love, that day, must certainly have been deficient in its usual eloquence, for at the conclusion of my speech, my father, without

out uttering a single word, gave me a well-directed box on the ear ; a species of replication, which very clearly intimated that my proposition was by no means agreeable.

CHAP.

CHAPTER II.

My first foolish Expedition.—Journey to Paris.

INDIGNATION at having received a blow, added to the mortification of appearing before my mistress with such unpropitious tidings, made me form the romantic resolution of flying from my father's house. I packed up a few things privately, and at night sent my trunk to the Angers' carrier; for whom, by four o'clock the next morning, I was in waiting six leagues from home, with little or no money in my pocket. As soon as my father discovered my flight, and learnt from one of my younger brothers the route which I had taken, he was filled with rage: his first design

sign was to go to the carrier's house and detain my trunk, that he might make me suffer for my rashness by want; but the violence of his anger having subsided during the walk from his own house to the carrier's, he listened only to those parental apprehensions which represented to him the dangers to which my inexperience would expose me: he sent me some money by the carrier, and wrote to one of his friends at Angers, requesting him to receive me.

I was sensibly affected by my father's kindness, and resolved to make some return for it, by an earnest application to such studies as might contribute to my advancement in the world. But a younger sister of the friend, at whose house I was sat down at Angers, made such an impression upon me, that my sole study was to please her. Her understanding was not of the highest order—

der—she was extremely devout, and the only inquietude which her attachment to me occasioned in her breast, was that which her confessor, M. Cassin, had instilled into her, relative to the difference of our religion. She teized me so long upon this subject, that she, at last, made me promise to visit Cassin every day. She trusted that the result of these interviews would produce a change in my opinions, which would render me more worthy of her affection. I underwent the tiresome penance of listening daily to the good man's controversies; and, though my conversion did not advance very rapidly, I affected to be staggered by his arguments. In the mean time, my father, who was apprised of the danger to which I was exposed, recalled me suddenly home, and shortly afterwards sent me to Nantes, with a view to my
engaging

engaging in commerce. This was a situation by no means adapted to my choice ; but, having nothing better to do, I accepted it.

It seemed, however, as though I were destined to have no other vocation than that of being in love ; this passion seized me like an intermittent fever ; no sooner did one fit leave me than some new object brought on another. I was set down in Nantes at the house of an honest citizen, who had two children ; a very handsome daughter, and a son with whom I soon formed a friendship. The young lady was betrothed to a rich old fellow, whom she despised ; and was deeply in love with a young man in the neighbourhood, who was enamoured of her ; and he succeeded so well in gaining me over to his interest, by entangling me in an attachment for one of his female relations,

tions, that our alliance became as firmly established as that of any two courtiers who ever coalesced to supplant a minister; but our object being once accomplished, our compact subsisted no longer than court-friendships in general; and hearing much, at that time, of the preparations which were making at Paris to celebrate the peace of 1748, I resolved to set out immediately for that capital.

I set forward on Ash-Wednesday in a comfortable chaise, which I had hired without recollecting that I had not money to pay my expenses, even a fourth part of the journey. The cold was excessive; but, being well wrapped up in a warm cloak, and having been dancing all Shrove-Tuesday night, I was just falling a sleep, when I was overtaken by a young merchant of Rheims, who was returning from
Brittany

Brittany on horse-back : he entered into conversation with me, and having informed me of the pleasures he had enjoyed during the Carnival at Nantes, he frequently repeated how fatigued he was, in a manner that insinuated pretty plainly, he would not be very sorry to receive an invitation to recruit his strength by a corner in my carriage. I took the hint ; but, as the chaise would carry only one beside the driver, I told him that, if he would have patience for a few hours, I would cheerfully resign my place to him after dinner. He accordingly set forward briskly to order our dinner ; and, after we had dined, he seated himself in my chaise, and I mounted his horse, which being young and spirited, soon left the carriage a considerable distance behind. It was not long before I had an opportunity of making a double merit of my

politeness; for such a storm of wind and snow came on, that not being able to stand against it, and finding neither house nor tree to shelter me, I dismounted, and took refuge under the belly of the horse, whom I had considerable difficulty to keep stationary. While I was in this situation the chaise came up; and the young merchant perceiving at what an expense I had accommodated him would have fain alighted and relinquished his place to me. This, however, I would not permit, but told him that, as I was already as wet as possible, I was resolved to hold out to the last, and, therefore, insisted upon his proceeding in the carriage to Rennes. My conduct delighted him, and was not long without its recompence; for when I had settled my account with the postilion, I was left without a penny, and having no acquaintance at
Rennes

Rennes I was extremely embarrassed: this he perceived, and inquired what I proposed to do; I replied, that my intention was to go to Paris to see the *fêtes* given on account of the peace; but that as I found myself without money, I should be under the necessity of remaining at Rennes until I could hear from home. He immediately offered me his purse, and gave me an invitation to travel post with him; time pressed, I could do nothing better, and therefore, gladly accepted his generous offer. We set forward full-speed, but being unaccustomed to ride post, I found this saddle exercise rather too rough for me; and, after I had travelled fifteen or twenty posts, I was unable to proceed further. The polite young merchant, unwilling to leave me on the road; engaged places for himself and me, in the Rennes' diligence,

in which we had for our fellow-travellers a Chevalier de St. Louis, a merchant, a Bernardine, and a courtezan. The merchant was going to Paris to give evidence in the affair of M. de la Bourdonnaie ; the Chevalier to solicit a pension : the Bernardine to publish a literary work which was to make a wonderful revolution in the opinions of the age ; and the courtezan to make a better market of her charms at the capital, than she had done in her own province. The Chevalier and the Bernardine were perpetually wrangling upon some point of religion ; the former belonging to that class of men of the world who disbelieve in the existence of God, for no other reason than a determination to differ in every thing from the vulgar. He had lived much in Paris among a set of men of letters who style themselves philosophers,

phers, and he derived all his consequence in society from his connection with them. It has been said, that wit communicates itself with the power of the magnet, and that it is only necessary to come in contact with philosophers, to be impregnated with their philosophy: the Chevalier, however, had acquired only the haughty tone and imperious manner of his friends, and none of the talents necessary to maintain those opinions which he was perpetually urging upon the poor Bernardine, whom he took a pleasure in provoking. The latter, who possessed considerable ability, together with much irritability and enthusiasm, was in constant agony, and preached with a fervour better adapted to the pulpit than a stage-coach. For my own part, young as I was, I learnt from them both how useless all disputes upon such

subjects are ; and found that, on our arrival at the barriers of Paris, each firmly retained his original opinion. Here we quitted each other without regret or concern, and separated to pursue our different destinations.

CHAP.

CHAPTER III.

The Début of a young Author not very encouraging.

ENTERING the Thuilleries, by the Cours-la-Reine, I was struck with the beauty and grandeur of the gardens and buildings; but nothing surprised me more than the noise and confusion of the streets of Paris. It was on a Tuesday, at five o'clock in the afternoon, that, having traversed the Cours de Carousel and the Rue St. Thomas du Louvre, I found myself suddenly in the Place du Palais Royal, opposite the Opera. The immense crowds of people, and the great number of carriages assembled there at that time, be-

wildered me to such a degree, that I knew not which way to look: I got out of the bustle tolerably well, and found my way to the house of a relation of my father's, who enabled me to discharge my pecuniary obligations to the young merchant, whom I could not sufficiently thank.

I soon grew accustomed to the mode of life at Paris, and went often to the French Comedy, which I preferred to all other amusements. I even took it into my head to write a tragedy, and chose for my subject *the Return of Ulysses to Ithaca*: in three months the piece was finished; and, without consulting any one, I went immediately to *La Noue* the comedian, and requested his interest to have it received at the theatre: he told me very politely that he would read it before he presented it, and would give me his candid opinion

nion

nion as to the probability of its success. At my next visit, he advised me to bestow some months further labour upon my piece ; he remarked that I was very young, and that it would be of service to me to study some good models before I presented myself to the public. But I was not at an age when the best advice is the best received ; I made several other attempts to have my tragedy brought forward, but with no better success than the first, and, being myself fully persuaded that it could not fail to succeed on representation, I went to Orleans on purpose to offer it to the company of King's comedians which was then established in that city. D'Orville, who was manager of the company, received my piece. It was performed to a crowded audience ; and the critics of Orleans honoured me with such loud applauses that my vanity would

would have been not a little inflated, if I could have thought better than I did of their taste and my own talents: but I saw so many defects in my tragedy, the plot appeared so ill constructed, and the poetry so feeble, that from that moment I determined wholly to renounce a species of writing which requires not only the greatest talents, but a degree of application and labour also, which did not suit the vivacity of my disposition. I returned to Paris with part of the company who had played my piece, among whom were Penelope, Ulysses, the princess the lover of Telemachus, and one of the pretenders to the hand of Penelope. The curé of Toury, who was returning to his village, was also of the party as far as that place, and was not the least gay among us. He was a sensible, good humoured man, who, himself, viewed
every

every thing on the bright side, and was solicitous to put the most favourable construction upon the words and actions of others. The subject of conversation was the new tragedy which had been brought out at Orleans; he seemed highly pleased to be in company with the author, and pressed me so earnestly to read it him while we were waiting for supper, that, notwithstanding the abatement of my good opinion of Ulysses, I could not resist his intreaties. He listened to it with new interest and singular attention; it was the first tragedy he had ever seen or heard. He scrutinized it, as if it had been some fragment of history, or the development of some secret conspiracy. He was now agitated, now alarmed, and now delighted, according to the scene. When the plot proceeding as he wished, he
applauded

applauded, flattered, and embraced me with the sincerest rapture ; and though this species of approbation did not make me vain, it certainly raised me a little in my own opinion.

CHAP.

CHAPTER IV.

*Duchillou exposed to the Dangers of
Idleness.*

I returned to Paris with a less favorable opinion of my talents for the drama, but I did not, on that account, wholly renounce poetry. I went frequently to the house of one of my relations, who was a rich farmer-general, and who had two very amiable and very handsome daughters. Their merit, their fortunes, and their beauty, attracted a crowd of suitors, who studied every means of making themselves agreeable, thus rendering our circle a perpetual scene of entertainment. My cousins, who were full of gaiety and fond of amusement,
and

and who felt no particular attachment to any of their admirers, received them all with politeness and affability, without coquetry or encouragement. Several ladies of similar dispositions constantly visited them; rules were established for this little society, which were dictated by taste, delicacy, and decorum, and which were calculated to render it permanent. This establishment was formed on the model of a court, of which the eldest sister did the honours: every one had assigned to them their rank, and their employ; mine was to turn the code of the assembly into verse, and it was said that I performed my task with tolerable success.

Dufresne, the comedian, was frequently a visitor at my cousin's, and amused us not a little by his pompous, theatrical air, which he could never lay aside. "I am supposed to be happy,"
said

said he one day ; “ vulgar error !
 “ how much should I prefer to my own
 “ situation that of a private gentleman,
 “ who quietly spends ten thousand li-
 “ vres a year in the mansion of his an-
 “ cestors.”

The heterogenous collection of persons of all classes of which our assemblies consisted exhibited the most remarkable contrasts, and frequently produced scenes of drollery and called forth many sallies of wit. That nothing might be wanting to complete our motley groupe, we had even one of the aldermen* of Paris: he was an old relation of the farmer-general, a convivial man, but ignorant of every thing that did not relate to the business of the town-hall, which he considered as the concentration

* Called in French, *Echevin*.

concentration of all human knowledge. He was lamenting one day, in presence of an officer, the severe lot of military men. "It must be confessed," said he, "that you gentlemen of the sword lead a life of hardships."—"Your pardon, Sir," replied the officer very seriously; "we rise early, to be sure, and spend the first three or four hours in fighting; but then, you must know, that we have all the rest of the day to amuse ourselves." In short, our little circle included every thing that was agreeable, and we divided our time between recitations, story-telling, dancing, and music.

The death of the good farmer-general, however, terminated the course of our innocent pleasures. My cousins went to reside with an old aunt, with whom they remained some time; but, unfortunately for them, being rich protestants,

testants, some officious persons, under the mask of religious zeal, obtained a *lettre-de-cachet* to shut them up in a convent, where they were confined, until they should embrace the catholic religion, or should marry. The eldest became the wife of Count d'Olonne, and retired with her husband to the neighbourhood of Lyons, where, some years afterwards, I had the pleasure of seeing them. The youngest married M. De Viomenil, an officer of distinguished merit in the French service, and the same who was killed on the 10th of August, 1792, at the Thuilleries.

There was a young man of our party, whom I sometimes accompanied in his visits to his sisters, at a boarding-school in the street *des Bourdonnois*; and there I frequently met a young lady from Sedan, who was the sole heiress of a very rich man. Young people are very

quickly enamoured ; I instantly was in love. My passion met with a return. I proposed marriage, and my charmer readily consented. We had even the address to influence her governess in our interests, and she sanctioned a letter which I wrote to the father, and which contained more flowers of rhetoric than substantial reasons for his deciding in favour of my suit. We looked for his answer with an impatience easily to be conceived, and at last began to be alarmed at the delay ; when one morning the father himself drove up to the door in a post-chaise, and without coming up stairs, desired his daughter to be summoned. She went down, attended by her governess ; who was confounded at the unexpected appearance of the father of her pupil ; but, without wasting time in reproaches, which his conduct had already pretty

pretty clearly conveyed, he ordered the young lady to get into the chaise, and immediately set off for Sedan, leaving to the imprudent school-mistress the task of communicating to me his answer to the proposal which I had made for his daughter. I happened to be in the house at the very moment, and was almost driven to madness. I was informed of the event in the presence of five or six young ladies, who boarded in the same house, and for the honour of a passion which I had always declared desperate, and which was now so cruelly disappointed, I could not do less than dash my head against the wall. The first blow was given in earnest; the next would probably have been dealt with less force and good will, had I been left to myself: but the terrified girls instantly interfered, to prevent the mischief which I seemed re-

solved to inflict upon myself, and afforded me all the consolation and comfort in their power. They sent for my friend to take charge of me, and secure me from attempting any farther violence ; and I departed from the house, leaving them all overwhelmed with compassion for my sorrows, and filled with admiration at an excess of love, which, till then, they had considered as only existing in the pages of a novel.

CHAP-

CHAPTER V.

Return to my Parents. Comic Challenge, and laughable quiproquo.

It has been seen, that I was not very fortunate in my marriage projects. I soon consoled myself for my ill success, and want of money obliged me to return to my parents. Once more at home, I began to think seriously of the best means of acquiring independence. I saw no other road to fortune, in which I could hope for success, but commerce, the bar, or the army. The first was by no means adapted to my disposition, and both the others were shut against Protestants, who, in France, could never acquire the rank and distinction

due to merit, from which not only the rigour of the laws, but the force of prejudice, precluded them *. I am aware that, at present, this intolerance is mitigated in the execution of the laws, and that the most sensible part of the nation is now less under the influence of prejudice ; but this was not the case in the times of which I am speaking, as a circumstance which occurred to my own family, furnishes a strong proof of the contrary. The Archbishop of the diocese in which we lived, actually caused the youngest daughter, who was only twelve years old, to be torn from the arms of my father, to place her in a convent. Neither the tears of a fond afflicted parent, nor the representations of a respectable citizen,

* This was written in 1775.

citizen, oppressed in the point most dear to him, nor the most urgent solicitations, could soften the ecclesiastic. My sister was detained in the convent, where she afterwards, at the age of sixteen, took the veil.

This event determined me to quit France, and I made preparations for going to England. I had an uncle who was very well established in that country. I was young, and saw no difficulty in my project. Having heard that some English persons were then at Châtellerault, I mounted my horse, and set off to visit them, intending to make myself known to them, and to request letters of introduction for England. I was accompanied by the Chevalier de la Borde, a very amiable young man, full of wit, gaiety, and vivacity. He was a great admirer of chivalry, and was particularly delighted with Don Quix-

ote, which he knew by heart, and whose adventures he loved to imitate. He attacked every one he saw on the road ; peasants, monks, merchants, travellers of all descriptions, were surprised to hear themselves addressed in a strange language, which they were wholly unable to comprehend ; for he accosted them all in the manner of his hero, and, in the stile of Amadis, proposed that they should do homage to his Oriana. But a better joke than this occurred on our journey. The Chevalier proposed that we should stop at Montbason, and dine with one of his friends, who was just married. We found a large company at the house, and we were extremely well received. The dinner passed off rather noisily, but it was sumptuous, and the whole party was in the highest good humour, when a misunderstanding had nearly disturbed

disturbed the general festivity. We were discussing the news of the province, and an officer observed, that Baron de C * *, lord of Saint Maure, had made himself completely ridiculous: he has taken back his wife from a convent, said he, where he had, three years before, confined her for infidelity. A gentleman from Cahors, who happened to be present, said, “ that’s not true ; I “ know the whole affair ;” and he then related the same story with so little variation, that there appeared nothing to justify him for giving the lie to an officer. The latter did not relish the affront ; and whether really offended, or only thinking it necessary that he should appear so, he addressed himself to the gentleman from Cahors, and said, “ you “ are very bold, Sir, to dare to give “ me the lie ; if I were near you, I “ would box your ears, to teach you “ how

“ how to behave yourself ; and you may
 “ consider the blow as already given.”
 All the company were alarmed for the
 consequences of so rude an address :
 but the Gascon, so far from appearing
 uneasy or disconcerted, assumed a seri-
 ous air, and replied : “ And I, Sir, to
 “ punish you for your insolence, now
 “ run you through the body ; so consi-
 “ der yourself as dead.” The singu-
 larity of the repartee, and the novelty
 of this method of revenging a blow,
 no less surprised than delighted the
 whole company : the officer himself
 joined in the laugh, and the antagonists
 were reconciled.

After dinner, the Chevalier and my-
 self resumed our journey. Night was
 coming on, and we were obliged to
 stop at Saint Maure. The lodging was
 so indifferent, and there being every
 appearance of bad fare, the Chevalier
 proposed

proposed to send and inquire whether a friend of his, who lived at Saint Maure, was at home ; adding that, if he were, he was sure he would gladly invite us. We were soon informed that he would be happy to see us ; and we accepted the invitation without farther ceremony. We found no other company than the master of the house and his lady ; so that, notwithstanding the gaiety of the Chevalier, we were rather dull. When the cloth was removed, we chatted a little about the news ; and, with a view of enlivening the party, I related what had passed at the wedding dinner, taking care to dwell upon all the particulars of the adventure of Baron de C * *, and of the jests which had been made upon the intrigues of his lady, upon his resentment towards her, and upon the weakness which he had just manifested

manifested in taking her back from the convent. But it was to no purpose that I wished to be agreeable; nobody laughed, and I was chagrined at their dullness. I was going to begin the story again, when I felt my foot kicked rather rudely by the Chevalier: without attending to the hint, thus conveyed, I begged him to take a little more care, unless he were determined to cripple me. Being no longer able to contain himself, he rose from the table, remarking, that it was very late; and we had scarcely got outside of the door, when he exclaimed, “What the devil have
 “ you done? Have you lost your
 “ senses? The man at whose house
 “ you supped is this very Baron de
 “ C * * himself, to whom you have
 “ related his own unfortunate adventure; and the lady who would not
 “ laugh

“ laugh at your story, is herself the he-
 “ roine of the tale. Where were your
 “ eyes, that you saw none of the signs
 “ I made, when, so *mal-à-propos*, you
 “ began it ?” I was not sorry that I
 remained ignorant of my situation until
 I had left the house ; and as I felt very
 little concern for our host, I could not
 help laughing at the blunder I had
 committed. Ten years after, being in
 France, and wishing to visit the Falu-
 nières * of Tourraine, I solicited a let-
 ter of introduction to the lord of the
 manor ; but upon looking at the ad-
 dress, I found that it was directed to
 the very Baron de C * * ; and fearing
 that

* A considerable tract of land, the soil of
 which is composed of fragments of sea-shells,
 almost reduced to powder, and which make an
 excellent manure.

that he might remember me and my talent for story telling, I proceeded to visit the Falunières without being introduced to the lord of the manor.

CHAP.

CHAPTER VI.

Acquaintance with two young English Ladies, and Determination to go to England.

DISAPPOINTED in not finding the English whom I went to see at Chatellerault, I left that town to return home. Near Ingrande my horse wanted to drink, and I rode him into the Vienne which runs by the skirts of that village : it was summer, the river was very shallow, and the whimsical animal appeared dissatisfied that the water did not touch his belly ; I therefore walked him into the middle of the stream, and he then drank plentifully. From negligence or ill-luck the ostler had omitted putting on the crupper, and the horse
swelled

swelled so much by drinking, that he loosened an old buckle which fastened the girth. My thoughts were occupied with something else, when, all at once, I perceived that I was sliding upon the saddle down the horse's neck. I cannot, to this moment, tell how it happened that I did not fall on one side or other ; but fortunately I preserved my equilibrium, and the animal stretching himself adroitly to get rid of the weight which had fallen upon his head, I suddenly found myself standing up to the waist in the water, with the saddle between my legs. As I had let go the bridle as soon as I saw the saddle moving, my horse, well satisfied to find his belly full and his back free, set off for the shore alone, and I was obliged to follow him with the saddle upon my shoulders, to the great diversion of about twenty of the rabble, who received me,

me with a volley of hallooing and clapping. I was, at first, greatly disposed to be angry; but, I soon felt, that I should be the dupe of my own resentment; I therefore joined with them in laughing at the accident which had befallen me, and so much interested them in my favour that they assisted me to catch my horse. When I had dried myself at Marande I pursued my journey home, where I learned that two English ladies of distinction, attended by a gentleman from the same country, had arrived the day before. I procured an introduction to them through their banker, and offered them all the services in my power. I was young and full of vivacity, and had a natural gaiety of disposition which immediately influenced them in my favour. The ladies received me with great politeness, and appeared disposed to accept

cept my offers, which they saw very plainly were sincere: in fact, I had the good fortune to make myself both useful and agreeable, and we agreed so well together, that, from morning till night, I never quitted them.

The eldest of these ladies was Miss Betty Pitt, sister of the celebrated Mr. Pitt, who was afterwards Lord Chatham. She was of a delicate and pretty form; her figure, like most English ladies, was handsome and well-shaped, and her countenance was intelligent and noble: she spoke French tolerably well, and when she happened to introduce any Anglicisms into her conversation, the novelty and singularity of the idiom made them pass off as humorous strokes of wit. She appeared to be scarcely thirty, and had come to France for the benefit of her health.

Miss Taylor was recommended to
Miss

Miss Pitt by her brother, as her companion on the tour : she was just twenty ; her beauty was of the most perfect and dazzling kind, and her serious disposition, the softness of her manner, and the delicacy of her mind, rendered her universally interesting. I was not long insensible to so many good qualities ; she was not displeased at perceiving it ; and when we became sufficiently acquainted to speak to each other in confidence, she intreated me to conceal with the utmost care those marks of attention and preference which I seemed disposed to shew her, to avoid giving offence to Miss Pitt. I obeyed her ; and I conducted myself so well in the family, that they could do nothing without me. Miss Pitt frequently spoke to me of the influence which her brother possessed in England, and boasted of the advantages that a letter which she

would give me to him in my favour would be to me. I believed what she said the more readily, because I often saw many Englishmen of distinction at her house, the greater part of whom came to solicit her influence with Mr. Pitt. Among others whom I met there was an English *chevalier d'industrie*, a character not very common among that people : he was of a good family, but had frequently been obliged to resort to means not strictly honest, to extricate himself from the embarrassments in which his dissipation had involved him. He took a pleasure in relating some of the happy instances of the fertility and readiness of his wit ; one of the most remarkable that I now recollect was the following, for the authenticity of which, however, I do not undertake to vouch.

He was laughing, one day, at the
folly

folly of those people who were in want of money, saying, that it was entirely their own fault for not availing themselves of the favourable moment : on being asked what he meant by the favourable moment, he illustrated it by his own example. Being once greatly in want of money, and endeavouring to devise some means of procuring it, as he was passing through the streets of London, he saw a great crowd collected around a well-dressed man who had just fallen down in an apoplectic fit ; observing that the gentleman wore a watch in his pocket, and an elegant sword at his side, and judging of the rest of his property by what he saw, he immediately exclaimed : “ Oh, “ Heavens ! what do I see ? my brother ! my poor brother ! ” He threw himself immediately upon the body of the dying man, crying out : “ Assist
 E 3 “ me,

“ me, gentlemen, for Heaven’s sake,
“ quick, a coach, a surgeon !” A coach
was soon brought, his pretended brother put in, and getting in himself, he directed the coachman to drive to the house of a surgeon who lived in a distant part of the town, and, on the way, plundered the unfortunate man of his purse, watch, rings, and pocket-book. It may be supposed, that he took no extraordinary pains towards his recovery ; perhaps he even hastened his death. However, before they reached the surgeon’s house, the man was dead, and all assistance was, of course, too late. The fictitious brother appeared to be deeply afflicted at the melancholy event, and pretending that he was obliged to set out immediately for the country, he begged the surgeon would see his brother buried, under a name which he invented, and then retired extremely well

well satisfied at having known so well how to avail himself of *the favourable moment*. The surgeon dissected the body, and took the remainder of the spoil. I am not sure that the ingenious chevalier did not sell him the body of his pretended brother for that purpose.

General Burgoyne and his lady were also in the same town at that time ; I met them frequently at Miss Pitt's, and having remarked the extreme melancholy of Lady Charlotte Burgoyne's air, one day after she had left us, I begged to know the reason of her sadness. “ Her health is not very good,” said Miss Pitt, “ and she is afraid that
 “ she is going to die ; and, to strength-
 “ en her apprehensions, a Scotch foot-
 “ man, who has lived some years in the
 “ family, eight days ago begged per-
 “ mission to speak to her in private : he
 “ then told her that he was a native of
 E 4 “ a part

“ a part of Scotland, where certain fa-
 “ milies had the gift of foreseeing what
 “ would happen ; or, as the English
 “ call it, second sight ; that he be-
 “ longed to one of those families, and
 “ having foreseen that his lady had only
 “ fifteen days to live, he thought it his
 “ duty to inform her of it, that she
 “ might turn her attention towards the
 “ final arrangement of her affairs, and
 “ the salvation of her soul. Poor Lady
 “ Burgoyne has been so alarmed at
 “ this prediction, that she is unable to
 “ resist the impression which it makes
 “ upon her spirits, her husband per-
 “ ceiving her dejection, she has related
 “ to him the cause ; and though the
 “ General has caned the imprudent
 “ footman, and discharged him, he
 “ cannot banish from the mind of his
 “ wife the solemn idea of her having
 “ no more than eight days to live.”

We

We were all impatient for the expiration of these eight days, that Lady Charlotte Burgoyne might regain the tranquillity of mind so necessary for her health. She, in fact, escaped from the accomplishment of the prophecy, for she did not die until twenty years afterwards. Had fear then destroyed her, a circumstance very possible, the prophecy would have excited wonder, and the prophet would have been followed with applause.

My impatience to be in England made me overlook every consideration of the pleasure I enjoyed in the society of Miss Pitt and her circle ; and I requested her to favour me with the letters which she had promised to her brother and some other friends. She endeavoured to prevail upon me to defer my departure ; but I resisted her persuasion, and even told her that I had
already

already taken leave of my father and all my friends, and that I could not, with propriety, remain any longer. She then proposed that I should pretend to set off, and should return and conceal myself in her house, where, as no visitors were received, I might remain undiscovered as long as I pleased ; but I was too fond of my liberty to accept her offer, and I appeared so firmly resolved upon going, that she was unable to press me farther upon the subject. Having, however, given me a letter for Mr. Pitt and another for Lord Barrington, she renewed her efforts to prevail upon me to stay, and I firmly repeated my refusal ; and taking leave, set out the next day, with the Mans carrier, on my way to Dieppe, where I intended to embark.

CHAPTER VII.

Duchillou's Reception in England.—Portraits of his Uncle and Aunt.

AFTER my departure, a misunderstanding unfortunately took place between Miss Pitt and my father and sister, which had nearly produced very disagreeable consequences. I will not now enter into any detail of the affair, having resolved to efface it, if possible, for ever from my memory. Suffice it to say, that this misunderstanding occasioned a complete rupture between that lady and my family.

At the time when this event happened, I was wholly ignorant of it; on the contrary, I was feasting my imagination

nation with the most flattering hopes, founded on the letters of recommendation in my possession. I embarked at Dieppe, on board a vessel bound to London. We were three days on our passage ; but so dreadfully did I suffer from sea-sickness, that it seemed three ages. At last we were landed some miles below London, and I walked as far as Whitechapel, which is one of the suburbs of the city, with a fellow passenger, who served both as guide and interpreter, for I did not understand a single word of English. At that time London was very ill paved, and extremely dirty ; it is now quite the contrary. Being a stranger to the manners and customs of the people, I thought it necessary to change my dress before I left the vessel, and accordingly I walked into London through one of the dirtiest and most vulgar avenues, habited in a
full

full suit of silk, with white stockings, and brilliant stone buckles, followed by a porter carrying my trunk. The attention of the populace of London, whose observation is ever alive to novelty, was quickly attracted by such a striking contrast as that which my appearance afforded. I was, in a few minutes, surrounded by a crowd of fellows, who purposely run into every puddle near me, for the pleasure of bespattering me more completely ; and I had not proceeded an hundred paces, before I was assailed with hoots and hisses, and was covered with dirt : I therefore requested my fellow passenger to extricate me from the unlucky predicament into which I had so ridiculously involved myself. We then took refuge from the mob in a public house, where I threw off my full dress ; and having called a coach, I ordered the
coachman

coachman to drive to my uncle's, in Leicester Fields, where I arrived without having sent him any intimation of my being in England.

My uncle was about fifty years old ; quick, active, gay, and indefatigable in business : he had acquired seventy-five thousand pounds in trade, but his wealth had not made him vain ; on the contrary, he still loved his employment, recollected his old friends, however poor they might be, and was never so happy as in assisting them, when they were in distress : he was a man of most excellent disposition ; passionate, but without resentment ; on the contrary, the surest way of obtaining any object with him was, to take advantage of his impatience, and put him into a passion ; [of which he was always the next minute ashamed, and was willing to do any thing that was required of him.

him. He had married an Irish woman, whose disposition by no means resembled his own; but, thanks to the good temper of my uncle, with the exception of a few quarrels now and then, they lived tolerably happy. He believed he could always command by raising his voice, and saying that he would be master; but his dear wife received these declarations with a smile of contempt, so full of poignant contradiction, that he found the safest method was not to oppose her will. These grand resources, however, were only employed in cases of great importance; for, at other times, she behaved with great affection and tenderness, and on trifling occasions frequently indulged him in his humour, that she might gratify her own in affairs of greater consequence. Yet, notwithstanding the picture I have here drawn of my aunt, she

she possessed many excellent qualities. She was really a good wife, a faithful friend, and a liberal benefactor to the poor ; and has, at a very advanced age, terminated a life of virtue.

CHAPTER VIII.

*Acquaintance with the celebrated Mr.
Pitt, and its Consequences.*

I INTRODUCED myself to my uncle, as a man who had come to England to seek his fortune. He was greatly embarrassed how to proceed with his wife respecting me: he judged it best, however, to acquaint her of my arrival before she saw me; and by the reception she gave me, I can conjecture what her conduct would have been without that precaution. They had six children; the youngest two, the eldest fifteen years old; who for some days maintained towards me a sort of reserved neutrality, waiting to regulate their conduct by

that of my dear aunt ; but the moment that they discovered her aversion for their cousin, their animosity became general against me ; and there was no species of tricks, no sort of mischievous jokes, which were not played off upon me every day. Whenever I entered the room where the infant was, the nurse was taught to pinch him ; the child naturally screamed, and having to undergo this torment every time I appeared, he could never bear the sight of me. This circumstance was pointed out to my uncle, as an omen which bore the most infallible testimony against me. It was needless for the poor man to say any thing in my favour ; the league was too strong against us. He begged me, however, to have patience ; to be attentive to his wife, and, in the meantime, he would endeavour to procure me some other situation.

I waited on Mr. Pitt and Lord Barrington with my letters: neither of them was at home; but the same day Mr. Pitt called on me. He expressed a great desire to be useful to me; invited me to go with him to his country seat at Hayes, and requested that I would give him all the time I could spare: he said, that he could never sufficiently acknowledge the attentions which I had paid to a sister whom he most tenderly loved; and regretted exceedingly that I had not arrived sooner, as he would have exerted himself to have procured me the employment of travelling with Lord Spencer, which would have been the most advantageous method of bringing me forward in the world; but that he would endeavour to make up for the loss of that opportunity, and begged that I would, at all times, rely upon him. My uncle was

highly pleased with this visit ; for, besides the hopes which it afforded him of my advancement, he persuaded himself that it would give me some consideration in his family, and thus render my situation in his house more agreeable. Mr. Pitt was, at that time, the greatest man in England ; his eloquence had, for a considerable time, placed him in the first rank in the House of Commons, and as it had been zealously employed against the measures of the ministry, they were at last obliged to silence him, by giving him the most lucrative post in the kingdom. He was accordingly made paymaster-general of the forces, an office worth from twelve to fifteen thousand a year in time of peace, and about thirty thousand during a war. From that time his eloquence became almost dumb. He still, however, stood very high in the general estimation

estimation of the public. The opposition exerted all their influence to bring him over to their party, and the Court were no less anxious to retain him. I visited him frequently, and he always received me in the most friendly manner: he spoke of my poetry; wished to see all that I had written, and shewed me some poetical effusions of his own; in short, he appeared as much interested for me, in every respect, as my uncle himself: when, in the midst of all these demonstrations of friendship and regard, his porter one day told me that he had orders not to admit me. I endeavoured to prevail upon him to obtain me one audience of his master, and, at the same time, gave him half-a-guinea. Not chusing to refuse the half guinea, he consented; but he knew, at the same time, that it was not in his power to obtain, and probably he never

attempted it. I went again to Mr. Pitt's: the porter told me he could do nothing. I wrote, but received no answer. At length I discovered what had happened after my departure from France, and was informed, that Miss Pitt had written to her brother, to prejudice him against me, excusing herself for what she had formerly written, by saying, that she had been deceived in my character. I obtained an audience of Mr. Pitt, and represented to him that I had nothing to do with the quarrel between Miss Pitt and my family. He replied, that he believed it; yet nevertheless he quarrelled with me. This anecdote reminds me of a scene in *Harlequin Courier*: he enters upon the stage with a bag across his shoulders, filled both before and behind. "Where are you going?" he is asked.—"To the army."—"What have you got in

“ in the front part of your bag ? ” —
 “ *Orders* for the army.” — “ And what
 “ in the hind part ? ” — “ *Counter-*
 “ *orders.*” The counter-orders of Miss
 Pitt put an end to my connection with
 her brother ; and as I supposed that she
 had written in the same style to Lord
 Barrington, I did not give myself the
 trouble to call again upon that noble-
 man.

CHAPTER IX.

*Translation of some English Comedies ;
Remarks upon that Subject.—Return
to France.—Salutary Sickness.*

IN the mean time Miss Taylor had returned to England : her mother had been to France, and had escorted her to London. I saw her soon after her arrival, and it was from her that I learnt all the circumstances to which I have alluded. I found a thousand new charms in the conversation of this amiable young lady, with whom I became passionately in love ; and she was not altogether displeased with me. I spent the principal part of my time in her society ; and it was chiefly in these interviews

terviews that I acquired a knowledge of the English language, which became as familiar to me as the French. I translated some English comedies, not only to assist me in acquiring the language, but with a view to try what impression they would make upon a French audience, when I returned to Paris.

With this intention, I sought for such English plays as appeared to bear the strongest analogy with the comedies of France; and from the extreme difference I found between them, I saw that some idea might be formed of the astonishing contrast existing between two nations, such near neighbours. I have since often remarked, that the shortest and surest means of obtaining a knowledge of the manners and customs of a nation, is to read their plays and their novels. There is infinitely
more

more of the national character to be found in them, than in the imperfect descriptions, and ridiculous observations of those modern travellers, who not having the advantages of high birth, and who being unable to obtain an introduction to the better sort of company in the countries through which they pass, see only one part of society, and make their reports accordingly.

I knew one of these subaltern travellers : he stayed three days in the capital of a kingdom, and during that short period collected materials sufficient to make half a volume ; in which he treated of the power, finances, and resources of the state ; of the policy, government, laws, manners, customs, and even of the different modes of living among the nobility and among the citizens, although he had never once been admitted into a respectable house. I
have

have met with two of these travellers in England, and three others in Italy, who have all become authors ; and I do not know whether I am most astonished at their quackery, their impudence, or their absurdities. They generalize every thing ; they imagine themselves qualified to judge of a nation by some trait which they have observed in the streets ; they do not give themselves the trouble to obtain information, or if they do, they are not successful in procuring it ; but consider themselves competent to assign motives and causes for every peculiar custom which they observe. This species of self-conceit, unfortunately, is not confined to the mob of travellers, but is frequently discoverable in persons of distinguished rank. I was acquainted with an ambassador in Italy, who had spent a few days in London : he was dining,

dining one day at the house of the British minister at Naples, when he introduced a discussion upon the subject of the English constitution, a branch of political knowledge very difficult to be understood, even by Englishmen themselves, who have not made it an object of particular study. The British minister was about to explain the subject in dispute to the company, when the French ambassador interrupted him by saying :
 “ Give me leave, Sir ; I was twelve
 “ days in London, and can explain to
 “ you the whole affair.” I recollect also a young Polish nobleman in Italy, who was no less presuming. In a conversation with M. de Clermont, ambassador from France to the court of Naples, he advanced some erroneous opinions concerning the rights of a certain jurisdiction of Paris, where he had never been. The ambassador was proceeding

ceeding to rectify his mistake, in the most polite manner, when the Pole, interrupting him and putting his hand upon his breast, said, “ Give me leave, “ Sir, to know these things.”

I merely relate these anecdotes as hints to indiscreet travellers and credulous readers. To return to my former position, namely, that plays and novels afford better means for obtaining a correct knowledge of the manners and customs of a nation, than any other species of literature. In good plays, also the language, is most advantageously studied, particularly the language of society. Every character in a drama speaks according to his rank ; and a little attention to this distinction will greatly facilitate the memory in the selection of proper phrases. I found no English comedy which appeared to me to approximate so near to the model
of

of the French, as that of Congreve, entitled “ *The Way of the World* ;” which I translated, calling it “ *Le Monde comme il va* .” I discovered in it little natural, but much forced humour, a great deal of what the Italians term *concetti*, and many strange comparisons : it contained, however, so many droll incidents and laughable scenes, the characters were so strongly marked, and the plot was so original and so well managed, that I thought it could not fail to produce an extraordinary effect at Paris ; and I, therefore, translated it with the utmost care. I selected, also, a little piece of Garrick’s, called “ *The Lying Valet* ;” but the humour, the plot, the characters, appeared, altogether, so much in the style of the French drama, that I thought the author must have taken it from some French comedy which I had
not

not seen : and before I undertook the translation, I wrote to Garrick, to beg that he would inform me whether such was the fact. He returned a very polite answer, assuring me, not only, that he had not taken his piece from the French, but that he did not know any piece in which the plot, the character, or the subject, had any resemblance to his. Notwithstanding this assurance, when I presented it to the French theatre at Paris, as a new piece, they returned it to me, saying that it was "*Le Souper mal apprêté*" of Haute-Roche, with some slight alterations ; which, upon examination, I found to be the fact. As for "*Le Monde comme il va*," the actors were astonished when they read its being wholly unable to conceive how any man could ever imagine any thing so extravagant, silly, and unnatural. I thus learnt that it was necessary to be
an

an Englishman, or, at least, to be thoroughly acquainted with English manners, to form a just estimate of, or to derive pleasure from the English drama. A thousand beauties and innumerable strokes of pleasantry, understood, are otherwise wholly lost.

While I was thus applying myself to the study of the English language, and was passing the happiest moments, which I spent in London, in the society of Miss Taylor, my uncle was trying every means to promote my interests. He conceived that the most advantageous situation I could procure was that of accompanying the son of some nobleman in his travels, whose future protection would be serviceable to me; and among those to whom he wished me to be introduced, Lord Huntington, the grand-son of Lord Granville, was the nobleman, upon whom he placed

placed the greatest reliance. We accordingly waited upon Lord Granville, who, after some examination, appeared satisfied with me, and referred us to Lady Dysart, the mother of the young nobleman, to whom the choice of a tutor had been left. On being introduced to her Ladyship, “Madam,” said my uncle, “I have the honour to
 “ present my nephew, whom I beg
 “ leave to recommend to you, as the
 “ companion of your son in his tra-
 “ vels; I may say, without flattery,
 “ that he is the best young man in the
 “ world, and the best qualified for
 “ such an employment.”—“Every bo-
 “ dy,” said Lady Dysart, interrupting him, “who has a son or a nephew,
 “ declares, that he is the best young
 “ man in the world: how can that be?” My uncle was not at all disconcerted, but began to enumerate all my good
 VOL. I. G qualities,

qualities, and concluded by saying:
 “ He is, also, a moral and religious
 “ young man ; and I can undertake to
 “ assure you, that he will inculcate the
 “ best principles in the mind of his
 “ Lordship.”— “ Sir,” replied Lady
 Dysart, “ I do not wish to make a
 “ saint of my son.”

We immediately took leave of her
 Ladyship, not much pleased with our
 reception. I afterwards learnt that they
 gave Lord Huntington a Swiss tutor,
 who undertook to teach him civil law
 and jurisprudence ; and that the young
 lord, so far from becoming a saint, quar-
 relled with his tutor, whom he oblig-
 ed to get out of the carriage in the mid-
 dle of the road, where he left him, not
 a little surprised at a conduct so con-
 trary both to law and equity.

My uncle was not discouraged by our
 first failure ; he made many other at-
 tempts

tempts in my favour, which were all equally unsuccessful. The poor man, at last, began to despair, but recommended me to have patience. This was no difficult task, as I every day had the pleasure of seeing Miss Taylor, whose affection for me was constantly increasing. My attachment to her was at its height: but, unfortunately, she was not rich, and I had nothing. Her mother, who loved her most affectionately, dreaded the consequences of such an engagement for her daughter, and endeavoured to open our eyes to our situation and to the insufficiency of our means; but we were blind to such objects; on the contrary, we talked of retiring from the world and of living upon love in a desert, with as much seriousness and as much sincerity, as others talk of preparations for a splendid establishment. Her mother, at last, ob-

tained a promise from us that we would wait a year, during which time she hoped my fortunes would improve; she did more, she persuaded me to visit France, in order to re-establish my health which was beginning to decline: and pleading that excuse to her daughter, she even prevailed upon her to advise my departure.

I experienced so much unpleasantness in my uncle's house, that I determined to leave England; and I took my leave overwhelmed with sorrow at parting with her whom I loved above all others, and deeply chagrined at having succeeded so ill in a country where I had thought it would have been only necessary to be seen to have obtained whatever I desired.

I arrived at Paris; and wishing to pass some time there before I returned to my province, I obtained an introduction

duction at the house of the Dutch Ambassador's Chaplain, which I was told was the rendezvous of a numerous and pleasant society. It is well known that the protestant clergy marry: this gentleman had a wife of about thirty-five years of age, a daughter of about fifteen, and a niece of eighteen; all equally fond of amusement. The mother had not yet renounced her taste for pleasure; and the niece and daughter entered into all her ideas with an eagerness which did honour to the docility of their dispositions. The chaplain countenanced all sorts of people; and his house was really like Noah's ark. Persons of all nations, Russians, Poles, Swedes, Dutch, English and French, and of the most opposite characters, were constantly to be met there. The elders of the French Protestant church, who regarded him as their patriarch;

young foreign travellers, whom their tutors brought to his house, as their first step into the world ; old prudes, young coquettes, foreign ministers, farmers-general, lawyers, and mousquetaires ; all assembled there ; there they played, they ate, they danced, they courted, and they quarrelled ; never since have I beheld such a motley scene. At length the poor husband perceived that his wife had a *penchant* for the tutor of a young nobleman, while the pupil himself, who was extremely desirous of becoming a man of the world, paid court to his daughter. He now opened his eyes to the disorder of his family, but it was too late : he could not endure the mortification which he felt at the discovery ; and, shortly after, his death having produced a cessation of pleasures, the friends of the house, finding it no longer the same, thought themselves

selves justified in abandoning it. The niece married a mousquetaire ; the mother and daughter became victims to their own imprudence, and were obliged to bury themselves in a distant retreat.

I returned, at length, to my parents ; but, I had no sooner arrived there, than I was attacked by an inflammatory fever ; I was bled twenty-eight times in the course of five weeks, and I owe my life to the tender care of a sister, who never quitted me during that period.

A long and dangerous illness frequently produces great changes in the mind and dispositions of youth. I experienced this change. I made many serious reflections upon my past conduct, and was surprised at having so long neglected the important examination of questions so necessary as, What art thou ? Whence comest thou ?

Whither goest thou? I felt with Pascal, that these are not indifferent subjects, which a man may either inquire into or neglect, according to his own whims ; but that every man has entered on a course which he must finish ; and in which he has necessarily much to lose or gain, according as his part is well or ill performed. I combatted successfully against my passions, which the illness I had suffered had weakened ; I availed myself of this interval to arm myself against their return ; and for this purpose I had recourse to the means offered by morality and religion. Morality taught me virtue, which is the habitual conformity of the actions of man with his duties ; religion supplied me with motives and assistance for the practice of them, which morality could not furnish ; in short, I became warmly attached to virtue and truth, when I
believed

believed that I had discovered them. I found that there was but one way which led to them, without difficulty and without intricacy ; a course straight and easy to follow ; and that it is the indirect and winding path of vice which is difficult to be pursued. It must be confessed, however, that no attempt requires more attention and greater efforts, than that of reclaiming a wandering heart from vice to virtue. It is in this conflict that religion is seen shining triumphant over philosophy. The former acts upon the mind and the heart with a force and an authority, which the other never can acquire, because it is not seconded by such powerful motives as hope and fear.

History teaches us how ineffectual the precepts and examples of so many illustrious pagan philosophers were, for many ages, in exciting in mankind that
love

love of virtue, which a small number of illiterate men produced in a few years, throughout the world, solely by means of revealed religion.

I experienced this at the moment of the happy change which was then effected in my mind. I had a sister who was older than myself; of mature judgment, and deeply sensible of the inestimable advantages of religion: she had watched over me with most tender care during the whole of my long illness; she rendered me the still more important service of fixing my thoughts upon my duties towards the Author of my being; and she directed my studies to that most essential object with so much wisdom and so much zeal, that I can never sufficiently acknowledge how much I am indebted to her.

CHAPTER X.

Second Voyage to England more fortunate.—Duchillou becomes Preceptor to a young English Gentleman.—Character of Mr. Wyche and his family.

WHILE I was labouring for my happiness in labouring for the perfection of my being, I received letters from my uncle in London, urging me to return to England. An English gentleman, who was both rich and generous, had prevailed upon him to send for me. This gentleman had been so unfortunate, as to be the cause of the death of a wife whom he tenderly loved: they were taking the air, one day, in a phæton, which he drove, when he over-
turned

turned the carriage, and the lady died in consequence of the accident. The inconsolable husband attempted to destroy himself; his friends, by their cares and their attentions, at length softened his despair, but could never banish from his mind the melancholy which preyed upon it; they therefore persuaded him to travel, and one of them, who knew me, told him that he could not do better than send for me to accompany him in his travels. An invitation was instantly dispatched to me; and I soon made up my mind to accept it. I took leave of my family under better auspices than before; and I arrived in London full of the most sanguine hopes of having, at last, discovered the road to fortune. I lost no time in waiting upon Mr. M——, who appeared glad to see me. He was a man about forty years of age, of a very
good

good appearance, lively and witty, with an air of melancholy which I attributed to the loss which he had so recently sustained; but he sometimes laid it aside, in the company of his friends, and displayed his natural chearfulness. Some days elapsed 'ere any thing was said about preparing for our travels; and I began to be somewhat surprised at the delay, when, one day, I observed a young lady in company with him, who came to visit a female relation of Mr. M——, who resided in the house. It appeared to me that, for a man overwhelmed with sorrow, he paid great attention to this young lady, who I was informed was a widow, and in whom I perceived a desire to captivate, which was not wholly lost on Mr. M——. Some days after, the widow supped at our house, with several of their friends: it was a chearful party, and when the
wine

wine had circulated, freedom ensued, and it was not difficult to foresee what would happen, and I began to suspect that our expedition would end in smoke. I was not deceived: two days after Mr. M—— took me aside, and told me that he had abandoned his project of travelling, as he was going to be married; and that, having no occasion for my services in consequence of this new arrangement, he had recommended me to one of his friends, as a preceptor for his son. He told me that I should be extremely happy in my new situation; that I should be in the society of the best people in the world, and that he had spoken of me in such terms, that they were anxious to receive me. As he concluded, he put some bank-notes into my hand, as an additional consolation, and then joined his widow. Some time after he married her, and for a few weeks

weeks was delighted with her; but gradually her captivating air began to disappear, her object being accomplished, and with it vanished all the charms of the divine widow. She now appeared a mere mortal, fond of disputing, and pretending to be always in the right. However they lived several years tolerably well together and had three children; but at last Mr. Michell, tired with the world and with life, retired on his estate*, took to his bed, without being ill, and died in 1766. His loss was sincerely felt by his friends, who regretted in him a man who was the ornament of his society.

I have concluded the history of Mr. Michell here, that I may not have occasion

* At Bayfield-Hall in Norfolk.

sion to revert to it. The day before his marriage he took me to the house of his friend; and during the whole of our walk there, he talked of nothing but the happiness which he was about to enjoy, in the possession of an amiable, gentle, and sensible woman, whose sole care would be to make him happy.

When we arrived at the house of Mr. Wyche, his friend, he presented me to him, saying every thing that was handsome of me, and recommending me in the warmest manner. Mr. Wyche was a man of about eight and thirty, or forty, with a mild and open countenance, and an unaffected air; his manner of expression elegant and natural; speaking little, but always to the purpose. This was all that struck me in our first interview. When I became better acquainted with him, I discovered that he was a religious man, and that

he was a profound student in natural history, chemistry, and mathematics. He had received an excellent education, which was improved and completed by travel; he was perfectly acquainted with Greek, Latin, and French, and had read the best authors in those languages; but his favourite study was Algebra, which had given him a constant habit of abstraction, that frequently occasioned fits of absence even in the midst of company. He was particularly fond of experimental philosophy, and, above all, of that which had for its object the benefit of mankind, which he had much at heart: he was affable and polite, sometimes sprightly, and generally coinciding with others in conversation, to avoid the trouble of dispute. Whenever he expressed his opinion, if you questioned it, he gave his reasons; if you were not

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convinced, it was of little consequence to him ; he had recourse to the solution of some question of algebra, and left you master of the controversy. When you would suppose him very attentive to the subject in dispute, or, supposing him to be convinced, called upon him to reply, he would inform you that the square root of such an equation was so much, which he had, to his great satisfaction, at last discovered.

Soon after I had entered, we were joined by Mrs. Wyche and her son ; she was of an agreeable and prepossessing form ; her appearance was graceful and pleasing, her manners unaffected, and she displayed that sort of politeness which evinces a desire to please, and which makes me define it an expression of goodness. I perceived that she examined me with much attention and curiosity, and I fancied
that

that she was not displeased with me. Mr. M—— retired ; my pupil was consigned to me in form, and the future regulation of his studies was confided entirely to my discretion.

It was then that, inquiring of myself what knowledge I had to communicate to another, I stood confounded at my own ignorance. Excepting history, poetry, and romance, I had read nothing ; I had so neglected my Latin, that I had almost forgotten even that ; and it was with this miserable stock of learning, that I pretended to set myself up for a tutor, to instruct the mind of a young man of fortune. The sentiments of honour and truth upon which I prided myself, almost induced me to avow my incapacity ; but I was emboldened by the reflection, that it was not too late to remedy these defects. I was young, and had some talents ; now was

the time to employ them. I considered that my pupil was only twelve years old ; that he was not in a state to detect my deficiency, and that before he had exhausted my present stock of learning, I should have considerably added to it. I, therefore, instantly set about to recover my Latin, which cost me but little application ; I rose constantly at day-break, and devoted to the study of the best authors all the time that could be spared from my pupil. I then directed his attention to the study of history and geography ; and I acquired a knowledge of the latter science myself while I was teaching it to him. I gave him lessons in Latin, and his father was desirous that I should also teach him Greek and the mathematics ; but I always found some excuse for deferring those studies. I was obliged at last to confess the truth ; and, when
I ex-

I expected to hear the reproaches of Mr. Wyche, he said : “ Do not let that
 “ distress you : I would myself under-
 “ take these branches of his educa-
 “ tion ; but to teach children is no easy
 “ task : I had, therefore, rather make
 “ you my pupil, and you will then
 “ teach him. It will afford me plea-
 “ sure to read over the classicks once
 “ more : it will, as it were, make me
 “ young again. By this arrangement
 “ we shall all be gainers, and we will
 “ begin to-morrow.” Accordingly he
 had the patience to explain the Greek
 and Latin authors to us, which he did
 with wonderful perspicuity, and he ap-
 peared as much pleased with the rapid
 progress which he perceived I made, as
 if I had been his own son. Not satis-
 fied with these studies, I applied my-
 self to the Oriental languages, and par-
 ticularly to Hebrew, which I wished to

understand. I learnt Italian too ; and, upon the faith of a saying of Lord Oxford, I wished also to read Spanish. That nobleman was passionately fond of reading Don Quixote : he had a magnificent edition of it in Spanish, printed in London, in three quarto volumes, which was dedicated to him. During the period of his administration, he was frequently importuned, by a member of parliament, to bestow some office upon his son. “ Does your son understand Spanish ? ” said his lordship, with a mysterious air. “ No, my lord ; but he soon will learn it, if you desire it. ” — “ Let him learn it, then, ” replied the minister, “ and he will have no reason to repent it. ” The father immediately sent his son to Spain, with a strict injunction to make himself perfect master of the Spanish. A year after he introduced him to Lord Oxford :

Oxford: "My lord," said he, "here
 "is my son; he understands Spanish
 "admirably well, and is now ready to
 "profit by your good-will towards
 "him."—"Very well," replied Lord
 Oxford, "wait a moment, and I will
 "come back to you." He went into
 his library, and, bringing out a copy of
 Don Quixote, presented it to the young
 man. "Here, Sir," said he, "read
 "this book in the original language,
 "and I can assure you that you will
 "not regret the time you have em-
 "ployed in learning it." This joke
 was rather too severe; but I found
 by experience that Lord Oxford was
 right. I have, again and again, read
 that book in the original, with the
 greatest satisfaction, and can say from
 experience, that the perusal of it is a
 most suitable recreation of the mind
 after severe study.

I devoted myself, during a period of three years, to study, with a degree of ardour and diligence, that never was exceeded. Mr. Wyche applauded my success, which he saw, with great pleasure, had exceeded his hopes ; he considered me as, in some measure, the work of his own hands, and treated me with the greatest kindness. My example had inspired his son with an avidity for study equal to my own, and he repaid our care by as much attention as we could have desired. We had sometimes, however, to combat the ignorance and prejudice of an old lady, who had considerable influence in the family, and who was incessantly declaiming against learning and learned men. This lady was the mother of Mrs. Wyche, who treated her with the same attention, and the same respect, as if she had been still a child. Mrs.

Brown

Brown (that was her name) was, in fact, the most difficult person to manage that I ever met with. She had a fund of ill-nature in her heart, which infused itself into every thing she did or said; and she never conceded her opinion to any one, but expected every body to conform with her: she loved, of all things, to debate upon political subjects, and it was her constant practice to take the side of the opposition, whoever might be the minister, or whatever were their measures. Should it ever happen, that a new administration adopted the line of conduct which she had suggested under a former administration, the measure was no longer the same; they were ignorant men, who did not perceive that circumstances had changed, and that it was foolish to do that to-day, which it would have been wise to have done yesterday. She rejoiced

joiced in all the disasters and defeats sustained by the armies of the king or his allies ; and I recollect her announcing to me the capture of Fort Mahon with a joy which she could not conceal. When Admiral Byng's fleet was beaten, and Minorca taken, her triumph could not be dissembled ; and she declared that, had her advice been followed, such a thing could never have happened. She carried this spirit of opposition even into the families of her friends. The master was always sure to be in the wrong, according to her ideas ; and her son-in-law was by no means exempt from her censure. He was killing his son by the closeness and the severity of his studies : he sacrificed the interests of his family to fruitless speculations : he had relations at court, why did he not see them more frequently, and obtain from them something

thing for himself or for his connection? This last point was that which she had most at heart; for she was ambitious, and it was true that Mr. Wyche, who was more of a philosopher than a courtier, thought less of adding to his fortune than to his knowledge. Upon this point, Mrs. Brown had gained over the opinion of her daughter; and it is incredible how much the two good ladies tormented the poor man whenever the subject was introduced. He had then no resource, but to abstract himself; and when he was once absorbed in the consideration of a problem of algebra or geometry, the clamour of his wife and mother-in-law made no more impression upon him, than the murmuring of a brook, or the fall of a cascade.

Mr. Wyche's absence of mind was more apparent when he was walking
or

or riding than at any other time. His son and I were riding with him on horseback, one day, over Sussex downs; he rode on before us, that he might not be interrupted in his reflections; and as if he were engaged in demonstrating some problem in geometry, he was, according to custom, tracing lines in the air with his finger, and, I am sure, would not have exchanged the pleasure of that moment for all the honours of a court. It happened that a whim just then seized my pupil to run his horse against mine: I accepted the challenge, our horses set off full gallop. We soon came up with Mr. Wyche, whose horse, quickening his pace at our approach, immediately joined in the race, and his master, without perceiving it, still kept before us, pursuing his problem: but nothing could be more amusing than to observe him, as
his

his mind became agitated by the extraordinary motion of the horse, with quickness tracing his lines in the air, absorbed in the most profound thought, and naturally increasing the rapidity of his motions, as the horse increased his speed. This violent agitation, however, being rather incompatible with deep meditation, the chain of his ideas was broken, and recollecting that his horse was on the gallop, “Where the devil are we going now?” exclaimed he, with considerable difficulty; he stopped the animal; we did the same; and he was soon again at a distance before us, resuming his speculations.

The poor man was afflicted with an inveterate scurvy, which was also the subject of much of his attention. He had read all the authors who had written upon that disorder; he had consulted all the physicians who were eminent in
treating

treating it, was acquainted with every mode of cure, and had tried them all. He was convinced, that that disease was a natural effect of the climate of England, and that there were few persons in the country, who were not, more or less, infected with it. If he perceived a pimple upon the face of any of his acquaintances, or discovered the least yellowness in their complexion, he was sorry to tell them that they certainly had the scurvy. On one of these occasions I thought Mrs. Brown would have actually beaten him; he happened to perceive a little patch upon his wife's cheek, and told her he was greatly afraid that she had got the scurvy. He assured me so often that it was impossible to live in England without being subject to that disease, that, although I felt myself in perfect good health, he almost persuaded me that I was myself
not

not wholly free from it. Not a day passed without his trying some decoction or other new remedy ; and he was never so well pleased as when he could persuade any one else to take his medicines with him : in me he found a more than ordinary share of complaisance in that respect ; and, whenever he had prevailed upon me to drink large glasses of sea-water, or to swallow quicksilver, I perceived his countenance brighten with a satisfaction which convinced me that I contributed not a little to his happiness. We were obliged, however, to give up the quicksilver, for that unfortunate remedy betrayed us every moment ; it passed through our shoes ; it was found upon our seats ; and we left trains of quicksilver behind us wherever we went.

This antipathy of Mr. Wyche against the scurvy, led him to seek for some
means

means of preventing it among seamen, who are more subject to it than others. He was intimately acquainted with Dr. Hales, the inventor of the ventilator, and one of the first who discovered the method of purifying sea-water from its saline qualities: they had frequent conferences together upon this subject, and the result of their researches has been of the greatest benefit to that part of mankind. Jack Tar (for so Mr. Wyche called all sailors) never had two more zealous friends than these two excellent men, who bestowed all their time, care, and attention upon this single project. Vegetables were regarded as one of the greatest preservatives against the scurvy; in order to have a certain quantity of them at sea, Dr. Hales found out a mode of drying turnips and carrots, so that stock sufficient for a numerous fleet might be laid

laid in with other provisions ; and as it was necessary to consult economy, Mr. Wyche improved still farther upon the project. One day, after dinner, he said he would present me with a new species of fruit : and having ordered a plate filled with a sort of preserve to be brought, he assured me that it was prepared without sugar and at no expense ; and when I declared that it had a delicious and excellent flavour, he exclaimed with an air of delight :
“ Add to that, it is a wonderful preservative against the scurvy, it consists of the rinds of melons dried in a particular manner, and will make a most excellent dessert to Jack Tar’s dinner.”

CHAPTER XI.

Duchillou loses his Pupil :—Effects produced on his Mind by Sorrow.

I HAD forgotten to mention, that while I was in France, I received a letter from the mother of Miss Taylor, entreating me to assist her in diverting the mind of her daughter from a passion which rendered that lady miserable. I had then lost almost all hope of returning to England ; I therefore acquiesced in the reasonable solicitations of an affectionate parent, and wrote to Miss Taylor, that finding myself obliged to renounce England, I begged, both for her own peace and mine, that she would forget me. Learning, however, after
my

my return to London, that she was in the country, I could not resist the desire I felt to discover the place of her retreat ; but my inquiries were in vain. Some months after my arrival, I met her one day by accident, in Park-street. I approached her ; and she spoke first :
 “ This is not a proper place,” said she,
 “ for conversation : my mother’s lodg-
 “ ing is just at hand, and she is gone
 “ out for some hours ; come with me,
 “ we shall have time enough to tell
 “ each other all that has happen-
 “ ed.” I followed her ; and we had scarcely entered the house, when she began to reproach me with my inconstancy. She confessed, however, that she had discovered I had written the letter which she had received from me, at the solicitation of her mother ; but she blamed me for a complaisance so inconsistent with such an attachment as
 I 2 she

she had always imagined mine to be. She added, that her sentiments towards me were still the same; and that she considered herself as bound to me by her promises, whenever I should judge proper to call upon her to fulfil them. I felt the full value of a constancy so rare; it was not difficult for me to excuse my conduct, and she was the first to suggest the means; I renewed to her my vows of constancy; and when we were separating, intreated to know where I might see her again. “ Do
 “ not give yourself the trouble of at-
 “ tempting to find out my residence,”
 said she, “ for it will be wholly use-
 “ less. I shall return to-morrow to the
 “ country; where my mother, for par-
 “ ticular reasons, lives in a state of un-
 “ interrupted solitude. Our retreat is
 “ known only to one friend of my mo-
 “ ther’s, and he will not betray us. I
 “ shall

“ shall hear of you through him, and
 “ will take care that you shall hear
 “ from me ; farewell ! remember
 “ your vows !” She now urged me
 to depart before the return of her mother ; and in spite of every attempt, I was unable to obtain from her any further information.

I continued to devote all my time to study ; and, thanks to the complaisance and patience of Mr. Wyche, who seconded my ardour, in three years I in some measure redeemed the precious time which I had lost in my youth. I had, besides, the good fortune to make myself beloved by the whole family, so that nothing was wanting to complete the happiness of my life. I had naturally a disposition to comply with the wishes of others, and was solicitous to make myself agreeable to those with whom I lived. It is

very rare, that with a real desire to please, a man is altogether unsuccessful ; it is a tacit compliment which he pays to others, and we all are gratified to discover that our friendship is considered worth the seeking. Happily the traces of such a disposition were particularly striking in me ; and it was evident, that this was perfectly natural, since I only expressed the emotions of a good heart, and the impulses of a mind which was ever inclined to judge favourably of others. The good qualities of those around me, always struck me ; and if I discovered a fault, I passed it over in consideration of the excellences which I had previously observed in them. Even after I had become better acquainted with mankind, this disposition did not forsake me ; and to this circumstance more than to any other case, I attribute the happiness

piness of having possessed many friends. This temper of mind extended itself even to objects of taste : in music, poetry, painting, sculpture, I was always struck with the beauties of a work before I perceived its defects ; and if, having said this, I may venture to define taste to be the *perception of the beautiful*, I believe I shall rather have reason to praise than to blame nature for having endowed me with a propensity to view both men and things in a point of view at once favourable to them and pleasing to myself.

The manners of people of moderate fortune in England, are perhaps more conformable to reason, than those of any other nation that has come within my observation. They spend nothing upon ostentation ; and if they have any luxury, it is that of convenience. In Mr. Wyche's style of living, his ta-

ble, his dress, his town-house and his country villa, his liveries, his equipages, all were plain, but excellent in their kind. His tradesmen were regularly paid, and he had no desire to outvie his neighbours in appearances. Mrs. Wyche attended to all the details of expense, kept the accounts, and paid the bills; while Mr. Wyche superintended the care of his estates, overlooked his steward, and regulated his expenditure by his income. He had an estate in Leicestershire where he passed six months of the year, and the other six months were spent in London. When we were in the country, we devoted the morning to study, and afterwards walked or rode: we seldom dined alone, for it is customary for the noblemen and gentlemen of the same county to entertain each other; and when they dine at home, they receive at their table all
 who

who choose to come. Parasites are rarely found among them, for that species of beings are but little known in England. The clergymen of the parish is commonly invited on Sunday : that day belongs of right to him ; but if he is on good terms with the owner of the estate, he comes oftener. In town, after the hours of study, Mr. Wyche employed himself with his speculations, which he communicated to me after dinner ; and in the evening, Mrs. Wyche always made some party of amusement, had cards at home, or went to the theatre, in which last case her son and myself generally accompanied her. This serene and tranquil mode of life in the society of people whom I loved, and who treated me as their son, pleased me extremely ; and I felt little concern for the future, when the death of my
pupil

pupil interrupted the happiness which I enjoyed.

He was of a very delicate constitution ; which was the cause of much anxiety to his mother, and this sometimes gave rise to little altercations between her and his father. She would frequently snatch him away from us in the most interesting moment of the solution of a problem, that he might take the air ; and all that geometry could obtain from maternal tenderness, was the postponement of the party for two hours. At length he grew so much worse, that the physicians decided that he was dropsical, and ordered him to Bristol, whither we conducted him. Dr. Randolph was recommended as a physician, and Smith as an apothecary. Smith was an unpolished Englishman, ignorant, a creature of Randolph's, noisy
rather

rather than jovial, pretending to gaiety, and possessing only vulgarity and rudeness. Dr. Randolph was remarkable for the gravity of his countenance; was extremely skilful in his profession; and, though greedy after fees, was honest enough not to retain a patient whom he thought it impossible to cure. There is no country in Europe where the probity of a physician is put to greater proof than in England: their fees being always a guinea for each visit, even when they make three or four in a day: and I have known some who cleared not less than six thousand pounds a year. When he had examined my pupil, Dr. Randolph took me aside, and told me that he could render him no service; that the Bristol waters would be of no benefit to him; and that he was daily more and more astonished that his brethren in London should delay sending their patients

patients till they were in such a state, that the physicians themselves must know they could not receive the least benefit from the efficacy of the waters : he therefore advised us to return to London while the fine weather continued, and we accordingly set off without delay.

Some time afterwards Mrs. Wychewas taken ill of the small-pox ; and as neither her husband nor her son had ever had that disorder, we quitted the house and took a lodging in the neighbourhood, where an accident happened to me that I cannot forbear relating. At that time I applied myself assiduously to the study of astronomy, and was much employed in gazing at the heavenly objects through a large telescope. One night, when the moon was at its full, I was desirous of observing it through a telescope twenty feet long ; and as the street was narrow, and the houses on the

the

the opposite side precluded a proper view from the lower rooms, I resolved to make my observations in the garret. I ascended the staircase alone, with no other light than that of the moon ; and upon my entering a large garret, the first thing that struck my sight was an apparition about eight or nine feet high, clad all in white, with its eyes fixed directly upon me. I was never so weak as to believe in ghosts ; but was now seized with an involuntary fright, and at first drew back. Recollecting myself, however, I advanced a few steps to examine the figure more minutely : it still remained in the same attitude and I confess I could no longer resist the terror which I felt ; but letting fall my telescope, I ran toward the stairs. I had not descended half a dozen steps, when I began to reflect upon the consequences

ces of the folly I should commit, if I left the place without convincing myself of what I could only regard as an illusion. I therefore returned to the garret; and advancing toward the phantom, with one hand extended before me I seized it resolutely. I had not much difficulty in bringing it to the ground; for I soon discovered that what had given me so much alarm, was nothing but a white dressing-gown hanging upon a wooden peg. Rejoiced at having brought my adventure to such a glorious issue, I resumed my astronomical observations; fully persuaded that the greatest part of those apparitions which are so firmly credited by men of weak minds, are nothing but illusions, and have no more reality than that which I had just detected.

When the health of Mrs. Wyche was
restored,

restored, we returned home ; and soon afterwards my pupil was confined to his chamber, which he never quitted alive. I will pass over particulars which, though interesting to myself, would be tedious to my readers ; but cannot avoid mentioning the strange effect which the loss of this young man produced upon my mind, and which exceeded every thing of the kind I had ever experienced. He possessed the most amiable qualities that were ever united in one person ; a great deal of wit, mirth, mildness, and docility, an admirable aptitude for learning, and a strong thirst for knowledge. He placed the most unbounded confidence in me : he loved me like a brother, and was never happy away from me ; but when I was with him, he forgot all his afflictions, and devoted himself wholly to the improvement of his mind. It frequently

quently happens that in proportion as the mind becomes detached from the world, it judges more justly of the things which concern it: and thus it was that, as he approached the period of his dissolution, he discoursed so sensibly, and made such judicious observations upon what was said, as excited my astonishment; and contributed not a little to make me believe the wonderful accounts I had read of the conversations of Cyrus and others, who on their death-bed appeared to be raised above humanity. He at last expired in my arms. Just before he died, he lost all knowledge of those around him: looking steadfastly at me, he enquired, “ Who are you ?”—“ Ah !” said I, “ do “ not you know me ?”—“ Oh ! yes,” he replied with a ghastly smile, “ I “ know you ; you shall soon see that I “ know you,” and in a moment after expired.

pired. These last words struck me with the force of thunder: my blood froze in my veins; and I threw myself upon the body of my young friend, determined not to quit him. They dragged me away, however, and conveyed me to his mother's apartment; where we all gave ourselves up, without reserve, to excessive grief. His last fatal words, which seemed every moment to sound distinctly in my ear, dreadfully afflicted me: I endeavoured to discover the meaning of them, but my efforts only increased my misery. Want of sleep, and the fatigue that I had undergone in passing so many nights by his bed-side, had so exhausted my spirits, that what at any other time would perhaps have had no effect on me, now made the deepest impression. I was almost deprived of my senses; I wished most earnestly for death; and had not the least doubt

that the words which he had addressed to me, were a presage of my destiny. Incessantly tormented by that idea, I counted the minutes till the period of his interment. It was at eight o'clock on a Sunday morning, that he was to be conveyed to the tomb of his ancestors in Leicestershire. I had not slept during the whole of the preceding night ; and as the clock struck eight, I thought I distinctly heard the voice of my pupil, who, calling me twice by name, told me to follow him. It is impossible to describe my situation at that moment ; I was scarcely able to rise : I knew neither what I said nor what I did the whole day ; and the following night I was in such a state of terror, that being no longer able to endure it, I was tempted to relieve myself from so wretched an existence. I even rose from my bed, to throw myself out of the window ; but
had

had hardly reached the middle of my chamber, when a sentiment of religion suddenly withheld me. I reflected that I was not at liberty to relinquish the post which the Supreme Being had assigned to me, without his permission; and that he would summon me when he judged proper. This reflection was succeeded by others drawn from the same source, which strengthened my mind and quieted my imagination. My heart, however, continued not less affected; and more than six months elapsed before my spirits recovered their usual tone.

CHAPTER XII.

Duchillou undertakes to teach a young Lady, who was both deaf and dumb, to read, write, and speak.

AN occupation of a very singular nature, on which I soon after entered, tended more than any other means to calm my grief. Mr. Wyche had two other children: a son ten years old, whom he took from school to place under my care; and a daughter about eighteen, who had been brought up with a relation in the country, and was now sent for, to reside with her parents. Miss Wyche was handsome; she had a charming figure and a pleasing countenance, with the youth-
ful

ful bloom peculiar to her age, and that expression of innocence and tenderness which interests still more than beauty. She laboured under a misfortune which had been the cause of her having hitherto lived from home ; she was born deaf and dumb, and all the skill of the faculty had been tried in vain to remedy these defects. Mr. Wyche submitted patiently to this affliction, and did not love his daughter less on account of it. Mrs. Wyche felt it deeply, and was somewhat ashamed of it ; but Mrs. Brown was enraged, and lost no opportunity of declaring that it was an indelible disgrace upon the family, and that all possible means should be used to conceal it. In spite of these remonstrances, however, Mr. Wyche determined to have his daughter with him, and she was accordingly sent for.

At first I did not pay much attention

to the young lady ; but she afterwards interested me much by her appearance, her innocence, and her unfortunate situation, which appeared to claim the sympathy of every feeling heart. I observed her attentively, and discovered in her a sensibility, which gave me the highest opinion of her heart and understanding. I gradually endeavoured to study the signs by which she conveyed her ideas ; and made such progress in her language, that none of the family understood her so well as myself. She seemed to be affected by the superior attention I paid her, and became particularly attached to me. She constantly endeavoured to sit nigh me : she did not disguise the pleasure that sparkled in her eyes when I joined her mother and herself in their airings : she communicated to me, by signs, all her observations upon
what

what passed, and upon the persons who visited at the house ; and her remarks had something so original, that I took the greatest pleasure in attending to them. Having never received any instruction, her opinions were not affected by the customs and prejudices of the times : she judged of every thing by her reason only ; she was therefore astonished at all she saw, and was utterly unable to comprehend the conduct of most of the persons about her. She had hardly been four months in the house, when I understood her signs so well, that I could carry on a conversation with her more intelligibly, and with greater facility, than I could in any other language but my own in the same time ; and having made this progress, I took singular pleasure in conversing with her. To me it was a sort of study of the book of nature ; and she, who had

never before met with any one possessed of sufficient patience and complaisance to converse with her, evinced inexpressible satisfaction. She had many inquiries to make ; and her questions were so pertinent, that they opened my eyes to a thousand things to which I had never attended, and which then for the first time appeared to me to be absurdities. I endeavoured, as well as I could, to solve the difficulties which she on all occasions suggested : but that was not always in my power ; and those which were founded upon her ignorance of our principles, gave me greater embarrassment than such as arose from her own reason.

One day, for instance, we were reasoning upon the subordination necessary to good order ; and from one thing to another, she led me in spite of myself, to the Supreme Being who governs

verns all. I tried to avoid this subject, as too sublime for her capacity ; but she possessed a natural logic, which never suffered her to abandon a question that she had not almost solved. She therefore gave me no rest till I had explained to her the nature of the Supreme Being. I told her that He is the Author of all that exists : that it is He who governs the universe, regulates the course of the stars, and is the first cause of all that happens ; who created man, sustains his existence, judges his actions, and rewards or punishes him. All this was communicated to her by signs, corresponding in her mind to these expressions ; and she understood tolerably well every thing that I had said. She asked me whether this Being was good, for that was the character which she valued most. I answered, “ Yes.” “ Ah ! why then,” replied she
with

with quickness, “ has He caused me
 “ to be born deaf and dumb, me
 “ who never offended Him? He has
 “ sent me into the world imperfect;
 “ he has never loved me from my
 “ birth; and I cannot understand why.”

It was impossible for me to lay before her all the reasons which might have satisfied her objection. I confined myself to observing, that to be born deaf and dumb was no reason for her believing herself to be an object of His hatred; that the Supreme Being had given her the means of pleasing and interesting, which were much better than the faculties of hearing and speaking; and that she must perceive that, instead of loving her less on account of what she called her imperfection, I loved her more than I did her father, mother, and all the rest of the family, who could hear

hear

hear and speak, which was really the case. This satisfied her; and she replied, that since it was so, she was content, as all had their lots assigned to them; and added, that she perceived she had more goodness of heart than many who could hear and speak, which was an advantage.

At another time, when the night was uncommonly fine, she came running to me, took me by the arm, led me to a window, and making a sign for me to look up to the sky, joined her hands, and intreated me to do the same, and adore the moon and stars. I was greatly surprised at this idea, and begged her to explain herself. She gave me to understand, that when her mother took her to church, they bid her join her hands, look up, and pray; and that seeing nothing above her but the sun, moon, and stars, she had imagined

gined that the prayers were addressed to them, and in consequence of that had always addressed hers accordingly. I assured her it was to that Supreme Being who made and who governs all things, that men offered up their vows ; and that those objects which she worshipped, were the work of His hand. She asked why he did not allow himself to be seen : I replied that I would explain that hereafter, but that I first wished to enable her to understand me better ; and I began to consider what means I could adopt to facilitate still further the interchange of our ideas.

CHAPTER XIII.

*Progress of Duchillou's Undertaking.—
Interesting Details relative to that
Subject.—Things begin to change.*

I now had recourse to the books which had been written on the art of teaching the deaf and dumb. I consulted Bonnet, Ramirez, Amman, Wallis, and Van Helmont, and found nothing that was of any use to me; all, except the last, having neglected to treat of the methods they had made use of to teach the first elements of language. I applied to a professional man, named Baker, who by a method of his own had taught Lady Inchiquin and her sister, and some other pupils: he was very clever, and a very good man: and
readily

readily told me all that he had performed, but very carefully concealed his art. I saw some of his scholars; and was astonished at the facility with which they understood what I said, by observing the motion of my lips: they also answered me; but their voice wanted modulation, and so was disagreeable. Though not perfectly satisfied with my progress, I was not discouraged: and resolved to begin by communicating ideas to Miss Wyche; in the hope of discovering, in the mean time, some mode of teaching her to express them.

She was not long in learning to write; to her it was, at first, nothing but drawing. I afterwards made her understand the meaning of words, by placing objects before her, and writing their names at the same time, shewing her that one was the sign of the other. She wrote *fan*, and a fan was brought; *watch*,
and

and I drew out mine ; *feather, hat, &c.* In short, every thing which strikes the senses was easily learnt : such verbs as *to walk, to run, to jump, to touch, to feel* ; and such adjectives as, *long, short, straight, smooth, and rough* ; all these required only the trouble of representing each of those actions or qualities, and writing its name at the same time. But when my object was to make her comprehend general and complex terms, I felt myself greatly at a loss : *duty, obligation, or faith*, could not be expressed by signs ; and I was obliged to find occasions for the use of them, in order to make her understand the words. I borrowed money of her, to give her ideas of *loan, debt, and payment* ; I affected not to put faith in what she had told me, to explain the word *believe* ; and by small degrees I increased her dictionary so much, that

in

in six months she was able to make herself understood, by writing, to those who were not familiar with her signs.

My young pupil evinced the strongest desire for instruction ; she felt that, by adding to her ideas, she enlarged the sphere of her existence. It was no easy task for me to solve all her doubts, and to explain difficulties which had occurred to her before she knew me. She frequently recurred to our former conversations concerning God. She always testified the most profound respect in naming him, but as constantly wished to know why he would not allow himself to be seen. At length I attempted to satisfy her upon that subject. I began by telling her that he is present every where, though invisible to us. This astonished her much ; she considered a long time, and concluded by thinking the thing impossible.

sible. She had no idea of any other substance than matter, and all that was not material was to her as nothing. She informed me of her doubts ; and I endeavoured to direct her attention to the mental part of herself, but she could not understand me. I placed myself in the attitude of a man when he is thinking, and made a sign to her to do so : then touching her forehead, I asked her if she did not find that something was passing in her different from bodily action ; if she did not perceive in her head feelings quite different from any thing she ever felt in her hands and feet. She understood, however, nothing of what I said ; and fearing that it was her own fault, she became extremely uneasy : she entreated me, with clasped hands, not to be discouraged ; and putting herself into the same attitude as before, with her head leaning on her hand, and her

looks fixed in the air, she begged me to proceed. Still, that day we made no progress : she wept much at what she imagined was her fault, and went to bed in the utmost affliction.

The next day, after breakfast, she told me that she had dreamed all night that we were walking together in Kensington Gardens. I instantly seized that opportunity of continuing my lesson of the evening before. I made her understand that there was no reality in that idea, as we had been separate all night. She was convinced of this. I then wrote down the name of *imagination*, or *dream*, for what had passed in her mind during the night. She understood this perfectly, and immediately related to me all the extraordinary dreams she had had for ten years past. I listened to her with patience, delighted with having found the thread
which

which was to lead me from the labyrinth in which I was involved ; and when she was completely familiarized with the idea of *dream* and *dreaming*, *imagination* and *imagining*, I told her that to *dream* was to imagine when asleep, and that to *think* was to imagine when awake. She had scarcely seized this distinction, when something extraordinary appeared to be passing in her mind. She became wholly absorbed in thought ; but by her countenance, which was very expressive, I easily perceived what was the case. I never saw any thing more interesting and more animated than her face at that moment. The ecstasy, the rapture that she felt, as she was suddenly struck with this ray of light which illumined her mind, can neither be painted nor described. She gave way to expressions of joy amounting almost to transport.

at length, fixing her attention upon me, she told me, with an incredible volubility of signs, that she perfectly understood me, and immediately gave me fifty unequivocal proofs. She recollected all that I had said and done the preceding evening, and applied it most ingeniously to her present situation. When I perceived that she understood the matter clearly, I substituted the words *to think*, instead of *to imagine when awake*, which I told her had the same signification, and added the word *mind* as equivalent to *thought*. She was not long in accustoming herself to these ideas : she shewed unwearied attention to all the operations of her mind. I afterwards made her remark the prodigious quickness with which her thinking faculty, or mind, could fly from one place to another, could make and destroy, and could command and
actuate

actuate her body. She admired all this, and was greatly surprised that she had never before reflected upon it. She then understood how great a difference there was between the operations of the body and those of the mind; and she was sensible that there must be also a difference in their natures.

These principles being thus thoroughly established, we returned to the consideration of the nature of the Supreme Being. I told her that God is a mind, or spirit, but one of infinite perfection; that there are no limits to His power, and that He performs every thing with more facility than man can even imagine it. She approved what I said: and seemed deeply affected with love and respect for a Being all-powerful; and, as I had told her, no less good than mighty.

It will be easily perceived that this

conversation did not pass without difficulties ; and that, on a subject so abstruse, it was necessary to employ all imaginable means to make myself understood. I thought, at last, that I had succeeded ; and the following day I had reason to believe that I was not deceived. My pupil lost no opportunity of convincing me that she comprehended me ; and I found myself amply recompensed for the zeal which I had shewn for her instruction, by the progress she made, as well as by the pleasure I received in tracing her ideas on all subjects.

She possessed a natural good sense, which guided her admirably well in all points of reason and justice ; but she had so little idea of the laws of civil society and morality, that it was not easy to make her comprehend the impropriety of any thing that was in opposition to her inclination. An instance of this occurred
one

one day, which gave me great uneasiness, and made me tremble at the danger to which I had hitherto been exposed. Miss Wyche, necessarily observing how much I was interested for her, conceived a strong affection for me. We were at that time in the country, with the whole family, and I passed the greatest part of my time with her : for Mrs. Brown having prevailed so far as to have her excluded from the parties which were made to dine with the gentry in the neighbourhood, I could not leave her alone ; and therefore always found some pretext for dining at home, that I might keep her company. These were the happiest days to her, and this complaisance on my part prevented her from discovering that she was neglected by others: Her attachment for me increased every day ; and though I perceived this, it did not disturb me, be-

cause I attributed it to the effect of her gratitude for the care I had bestowed on her. One day, when we were alone in my room, after having given me some of those marks of affection which I regarded as perfectly innocent, and which I returned as innocently, she seemed to evince less reserve than usual. I confess that, at the moment, I was not a little embarrassed in deciding upon what part to take: I was at an age when the passions plead strongly with the heart, and I felt a tenderness for my lovely pupil which I really thought was founded upon compassion; but might I not have deceived myself? Were not the *charms* of a girl of eighteen more likely to have inspired that sentiment, than her unfortunate condition? Whatever might have been the motive of the interest I felt, happily the consideration of what I owed to myself,

myself, to a respectable family, to honour, and to religion, rushed into my mind. I was almost ashamed to have hesitated ; and I held Miss Wyche by one hand, pressing the other, to soften my repulse. She was astonished, and even somewhat confused, at my resistance : she reproached me for my backwardness, and inquired the reason of it. I well knew that it was useless to talk to her of the good order necessary to society, which was preserved by marriage, and to tell her that from those two principles arose the rules of decency and chastity. I ventured, however, to hold nearly that language to her ; which appeared still more incomprehensible to her, than my former discourse on the Deity was. At last, tired of my morality, which she could not understand, she left me with no small degree of anger. The next day she still seemed dissatisfied.

fied. I endeavoured to conciliate her, and it was not long before I succeeded: but I had only made my peace, that she might resume the subject of yesterday's conversation; all that she had comprehended of my reasoning was, that marriage would make her advances allowable. She asked me if she had understood me properly? I said, "Yes." "Well," replied she, "let us be married then, and torment me no more with your laws and your rules." I told her that it was necessary to have the consent of her father and mother, who perhaps would not grant it; but that I would think of some means of removing that difficulty. She retired better pleased with me than the day before; but I saw plainly, that she was not inclined to allow me a long respite from this subject. I was at a loss how to act in this situation. How could I make proposals to Mr. Wyche
for

for marrying his daughter? Would he not have reason to believe that I had taken advantage of his confidence, and of the innocence of a young girl in her condition? The idea that a suspicion so injurious to my honour might justly arise in his mind, made me wholly renounce my design of disclosing the affair to him: and I determined to endeavour to persuade my pupil to submit to my wishes upon so delicate a subject; or, if I failed in that object, to quit at once her father's house. But just at the moment when I was employed in these reflections, an event took place which extricated me from my embarrassment, and proved the foundation of my fortune.

I was acquainted with Mr. Upton, who has since become Lord Templeton; and he had introduced me to Mr. Wood,

Wood, under-secretary of state in the office of foreign affairs. Both these gentlemen interested themselves for me, and were constantly looking out for some opportunity to serve me. Mr. Upton, who at that time was not rich, had accepted an appointment to go to Turin, in the capacity of secretary to the British minister at that court; but having changed his mind, he found some excuse for relinquishing the engagement, intending to avail himself of the opportunity to serve me. He wrote to acquaint me with his purpose, urging me to come immediately to London. I did not hesitate to accept his offer; and having communicated it to Mr. Wyche, he himself approved of my doing so.

The difficulty was, to conceal this resolution from Miss Wyche; but she had
too

too much penetration not to perceive that I was going to leave her. She spoke to me on the subject, but it was in vain that I promised her that my absence should be for only a short time: she was not to be pacified, and spent the whole time that preceded my departure in tears and lamentation. I was obliged to conceal from her the moment of our separation, and to depart without bidding her adieu. When the day fixed upon arrived, I seized a moment while she was out walking, to take leave of this respectable family with tears in my eyes; and they witnessed my departure with as much regret, as they would have felt for their own son. On the following day I reached London, about to enter upon a new career, and to launch into the vortex of a world where

where I was to find more splendour but less repose, more pleasure but less happiness.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

MEMOIRS
OF A
TRAVELLER.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

Duchillou becomes Secretary to the Envoy Extraordinary from Great Britain to the Court of Turin.—Portraits of Lord Bute and his Brother.—Departure for Italy.

ON my arrival in London, I waited on Mr. Upton, who acquainted me with what he had done to serve me. Though he was heir to three thousand a year, he

he had not a penny, as the whole wealth of the family was in the possession of an avaricious elder brother, and he had therefore accepted the place of secretary to Lord Bute's brother ; who was going to the court of Turin as envoy extraordinary. He soon, however, repented of having parted with his independence, and had resolved to resign his situation. Unwilling at the same time to embarrass the minister, he conceived the plan of recommending me as chaplain to the embassy ; intending, in the course of our journey, to decline the secretaryship in the best manner he could, and to propose me as his successor. For this purpose, it was necessary that I should enter the church ; but as he had frequently seen me studying Greek and Hebrew, and the sacred writings, he had no doubt of my being properly qualified on that head.

head. I thanked Mr. Upton for this proof of his friendship, and saw no obstacle whatever to the execution of his design. He presented me to Mr. Mackenzie, who was our principal : I received his approbation, and immediately took orders ; and in the course of fifteen days was put in possession of my place, and was ready to depart.

It may not be improper, before I take leave of England, to make my readers acquainted with the persons with whom I was now connected.

Lord Bute was a man of dignified, elegant manners, and of a handsome person : he was endowed with great talents, and a comprehensive mind ; his knowledge was extensive ; and he possessed a spirit of magnanimity that despised difficulties, and proved how admirably he was fitted to share in the greatest enterprises. So free from ambi-

tion, however, was he, that scarcely was he married, when he retired to the Isle of Bute, of which he was proprietor: where he devoted himself to various studies, and a tranquil and happy life ; dividing his time between the improvement of his estates, and the enjoyment of his books and his family. Here, perhaps, he would have ended his days, had not the landing of the Pretender in Scotland, in the year 1745, obliged him to change his manner of living. Upon that occasion most of the Scotch nobility who were attached to the reigning family, withdrew from Scotland that they might not be suspected of an attachment to the Stuarts, and to testify their zeal for the Court. Lord Bute, though bearing the name of Stuart, and one of the chiefs of that illustrious family, was among the first to repair to London, and offer his services to the King.

King. When he appeared at the court, it was divided into two parties: that of the King; and that of the Prince of Wales, who frequently opposed the measures of his father. The Prince of Wales was much pleased with Lord Bute: and sought his friendship by so many marks of distinction, that his lordship soon renounced all other engagements; and devoted himself, without reserve, to the service of a prince who loaded him with honours and kindness. By degrees he became so necessary to the Prince of Wales in affairs both of business and of amusement, that nothing could be done without him. The death of the Prince, which happened some years after, far from diminishing his influence, considerably increased it. The Princess of Wales honoured him with unreserved confidence; and consulted him not only upon her o

concerns, but upon the education of the Prince of Wales, her son. By her influence with the King, Lord Bute was appointed first lord of the chamber to the young prince ; and this early mark of favour excited against that nobleman the jealousy of many of his competitors, and was the cause of that animosity which afterwards broke out so strongly against him.

In proportion as George II. advanced in years, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess (who had the natural ascendancy of a mother over him), acquired more influence. The ministers began to pay some attention to this rising court ; and Lord Bute, who was its oracle, consequently enjoyed great power.

It was during this period that his brother, Mr. Stuart Mackenzie, was appointed envoy extraordinary to the
 of Turin. Mr. Mackenzie, of
 all

all the men I have ever known, possessed the most good qualities with the fewest faults. He was endowed with a prudence which made him avoid the possibility of danger, and with a penetration which constantly pointed out to him the surest means of success in every undertaking. His greatest pleasure was to do good ; his greatest care, to conceal it : and if he loved power, it was that his friends might reap the fruits of it. He had a stock of honour and integrity very uncommon in the time he lived ; and which never failed him in any circumstances, however difficult and embarrassing : he was humane, charitable, and generous : he possessed great talents and information : his manners were dignified, yet affable ; and in company he was chearful and pleasant : he was not fond of the pleasures of high life, but preferred the ap-

plication of his time to the study of the sciences, in which he was well versed, particularly in mathematics, algebra, and astronomy.

His wife, Lady Betty Mackenzie, was the daughter of the famous John, Duke of Argyle and Greenwich, who for thirty years made so conspicuous a figure at the head of the British army, and in the House of Lords. She had an air of dignity and goodness, which won the love and esteem of all who approached her: the wish to please appeared so genuine in her, that she must have succeeded in her object, even if she had not employed all possible means to accomplish it, which she never failed to do.

We left London in the month of October, 1758. England being then at war with France, the great number of young English gentlemen who availed them-

themselves of the permission which Mr. Mackenzie had received to travel through France, formed a considerable train. Our entrance into Calais, after a violent storm, produced a most laughable contrast. The Prince de Croy, who commanded in Picardy, was then at Calais; and being desirous of rendering to the English minister all the honours which his politeness suggested to him, he attended at the port with part of the garrison; to conduct Lady Betty Mackenzie from the vessel. Unfortunately we had been tossed the whole night upon sea, and nobody had the least idea of dressing, as, all circumstances considered, we concluded that we should enter the town with the utmost privacy. Let any one imagine to himself the Prince de Croy, full-dressed and powdered at eight o'clock in the morning, gallantly giving his

hand to Lady Betty Mackenzie in a night-cap, at the head of the officers of his garrison. Mr. Mackenzie, confused by this unexpected reception, followed with his head cast down, wrapped up in his cloak, with his hat negligently put on over his night-cap ; and succeeded by a dozen English noblemen and gentlemen, pale and fatigued, with their hair undressed, and half of them with their stockings about their heels. Such was our procession through the town, with drums beating, and the garrison drawn up in a line on each side ; to the great mirth of the officers, who could not help noticing the contrast. The Prince quitted Lady Betty and Mr. Mackenzie at the door of the hotel, after having invited the whole suite to dinner with him : but Mr. Mackenzie had suffered so much by the formality of this reception, that
though

though he had intended to stay a day at Calais, he now hastened his departure ; and after having sent me to make his acknowledgments and his excuses to the Prince de Croy, he quitted Calais, and thus escaped from a dinner, a ball, and a theatrical entertainment, which the Prince had prepared for him. We continued our route through France and Savoy, and reached Turin, without the occurrence of any thing remarkable.

CHAPTER II.

The Court of Turin.—Portraits of the King and his Ministers. — Curious Anecdotes.

THE King of Sardinia is the natural ally of the King of England;* they have nothing to fear from each other, and a good understanding is useful to both. An English minister therefore is always well received at that court, and has no difficulty in making himself esteemed. Mr. Mackenzie lived at Turin in a splendid style, and his lady gave most magnificent entertainments; they had grand assemblies, balls, and fêtes, so that their house soon became the

* This was written in the year 1775.

the most agreeable rendezvous of the first company. The Chevalier Ossorio was then prime minister at that court : the Count de Mercy was minister plenipotentiary from the Empress Queen : M. de Chauvelin was ambassador from France : the Marquis de Carraccioli, envoy extraordinary from the King of Naples : and the rest of the diplomatic corps, though of an inferior rank, were respectable.

The Chevalier Ossorio was by birth a Sicilian. He had followed King Victor when he renounced the title of King of Sicily : and after having been his minister ; and having served his son, King Charles - Emanuel, at different foreign courts (among others at that of London, where he remained fifteen years) ; he had been appointed secretary of state for foreign affairs, which was considered as the highest and most important

portant office at that court. The Chevalier Ossorio possessed great genius and talents, much more indeed than were necessary for the government of a state which is not of the first rank in Europe : his views were too great for the policy of his court, but they were always prudently moderated by King Charles-Emanuel. His two rivals in power and influence were the Marquis de Breille, master of the horse, who had been governor to the Duke of Savoy ; and the Count de Bogin, minister of war, who had made himself so necessary to the King in his department that nothing could be done without him.

The Marquis Solar de Breille was of high birth, and there was in his favour the merit of very long services in the army and in the ministry ; besides that of having succeeded extremely well in
the

the education of the Duke of Savoy, whom he had rendered an accomplished prince. He possessed the entire confidence of his pupil, and the esteem of the King ; with whom he was not a favorite, but who was just to his merit. He had seen more of the world, and to better purpose, than any nobleman I ever knew : he had passed his childhood with his father when he was minister from the King of Sardinia at London, and his youth at Paris with his uncle who was ambassador there ; he had served under Prince Eugene ; and had successively been minister from the King his master at Naples, Rome, and Vienna, and had been employed on many other occasions. He possessed great wit, vivacity, and politeness ; and though he was nearly eighty years old, his memory never failed him. The advantage which he had had of living in the
habit

habit of intimacy with all the great men of his day, rendered his conversation brilliant, interesting, and instructive : and I frequently enjoyed the pleasure of experiencing this ; for during the long stay that I made at Turin, he honoured me with his favour ; and I have some times spent three hours in his company at once, which seemed to have glided by like so many moments.

His conversation frequently turned upon curious anecdotes, which might serve to correct the mistakes of the authors of his time. He set but little value upon Voltaire as an historian, and condemned him for having frequently followed his own conceits, and preferred probability to truth. He gave me two examples of this, which I cannot help repeating. Some person having, one day, contradicted him relative to some particulars of the imprisonment

sonment of Alexis the son of the Czar Peter, and having cited Voltaire as an authority:— “ Allow me, Sir,” replied the Marquis de Breille with quickness, “ to be better informed upon that subject than Voltaire: I was then minister from the King my master at the court of Naples, and it was I who was directed secretly to solicit the imprisonment of that unfortunate prince.”

Talking with him once upon the death of the same Peter the Great, I quoted the will of that prince which had been produced before the Senate of Russia ; and added that Voltaire, in his History, had denied its authenticity. “ I have better authority to produce,” replied the Marquis, “ than Voltaire and his History. When I was ambassador at Vienna, I was upon a very intimate footing with the Russian ambassador ; who told me more than once, that he
“ was

“ was alone with the Empress Catha-
 “ rine in the Czar’s chamber when that
 “ Prince died. Before his death was
 “ made public, Catharine wished to be
 “ certain whether he had not left a will :
 “ and finding none in his cabinet, they
 “ agreed to make one, which she dicta-
 “ ted to this same Russian nobleman,
 “ who was devoted to her ; and that is
 “ the will which has been since printed.
 “ I promised the Russian ambassador to
 “ keep this anecdote secret,” added the
 Marquis ; “ and I should not now have
 “ related it, had I not known that he
 “ has been dead many years.”

At another time we were speaking of
 the avarice of the famous Duke of Marl-
 borough; and I told him that I could
 not believe a story which I had been told,
 of his having one night, when alone in
 a room with some person, extinguished
 one of two candles which were burning
 in

“ in his chamber. It is nevertheless true,”
 said the Marquis ; “ I was the person :
 “ Prince Eugene had sent me to inform
 “ him of some disposition he had made
 “ for an attack the next morning. The
 “ Duke of Marlborough was then asleep,
 “ and they awoke him : I was admitted
 “ to his bed side ; a valet-de-chambre
 “ placed two candles upon the night ta-
 “ ble, and withdrew. At the beginning
 “ of the conversation, which seemed as
 “ if it would last for some time, the
 “ Duke, while he was listening to me,
 “ and without saying a word, put the
 “ extinguisher upon one of the lights,
 “ and continued attending to what I
 “ had been directed to relate to him.”

The Marquis de Breille might truly
 be called the living history of half a
 century : he was one of the few who
 had the opportunity of seeing the ma-
 chinery of the grand springs of the ba-

lance of Europe, during a very long period; and he was better qualified than any other person, to estimate their power. I must now leave him to turn to the Count de Bogin, whom you will find in a very different situation from that in which one might expect to see him.

The Count de Bogin had passed through all the gradations in the war-office, to the head of the military department. He was a man of lofty character, and of unshaken firmness in the exercise of his official duties: he courted nobody; and in all his arrangements thought only of doing what was right, without troubling himself to consider whether such a nobleman would be pleased, or such a one dissatisfied: he was precisely the man, in short, whom the King of Sardinia wanted. The revenues of this prince being too slender to reward a numerous

fous nobility who were all devoted to his service, and his natural goodness of heart leading him to covet the good wishes of every one, he availed himself admirably of the authority of his minister, to reconcile the inadequacy of his means with his inclination to confer favours.

Charles-Emanuel III. was certainly one of the best and the wisest princes of Europe. He governed his kingdom like the father of a family: it may be said that he personally administered justice in his dominions. One of the means which he adopted to know whether justice was rendered to all his subjects, was to set apart two hours every morning and evening, for private audiences, to which every individual was admitted without distinction. At these hours, I have seen assembled in his anti-chamber, merchants, artizans, and

N 2

peasants

peasants ; each was admitted and heard in turn. If any of them had cause of complaint against the corruption of a judge, or the oppression of a minister, and adduced proof of his charge, the King caused the most prompt and the most impartial justice to be afforded him. I myself was witness to one instance of this spirit of equity, which I will relate.

The Count de Bogin had served the King for twenty years with the greatest success ; and enjoyed an influence which extended even to the other departments. The severity of his character made him hated by the nobility as much as he was feared. The King was accused of placing too much confidence in him, and even of allowing himself to be governed by him, when the event which I am going to mention occurred very
opportunately

opportunately to prove the contrary. The Count had purchased a small villa, two leagues from Turin, to which he frequently retired. He had, for a long time wished to enlarge the gardens of this estate ; but a road which led to the house of a man named Talpon, one of the King's valets, and which divided some meadows that he was desirous of obtaining, opposed his design. He requested Talpon to part with this road, which he agreed to ; reserving to himself, however, the right of passing through the estate of the Count, whenever another road which led to his house should be rendered impassable by the snow, which was sometimes the case. Two or three years had elapsed without Talpon's having any occasion to avail himself of this right, when it happened that his own road became wholly obstructed by

the snows. Conceiving he might avail himself of the privilege which he had reserved for himself, he rode through the Count's estate on horseback; but the minister, perceiving him at a distance sent to forbid his passage. Talpon desired the minister might be informed who it was; and that, by virtue of their agreement, he was travelling through the old road, because the other was impassable: but the Count persisted in his refusal; and Talpon was obliged to return to Turin, burning with rage. He repaired instantly to the King, related to him the injustice and the ingratitude of the Count, and concluded by saying: "Judge, Sire, how he acts
 " towards your other subjects, when he
 " treats me thus; me, whom he knows
 " to have access to your majesty." The King directed Talpon to preserve the most perfect silence on the affair, promising

mising to do him justice. He sent immediately for the intendant of his roads; and though he was a brother-in-law of the Count de Bogin, he charged him to inquire into the truth of the matter. This man knew that it was the King's custom, on such occasions, to inform himself privately of the circumstances, that he might be sure his ministers did not impose on him: he did not dare, therefore, to disguise the truth; but some days after, reported to the King, that the relation which Talpon had given of his rights, and of the affront he had received, was a faithful account. The King then directed, that without speaking to his brother-in-law, he should set a hundred men to work the next day, to restore the former road to Talpon's house; which was done. Judge of the astonishment of the minister when, walking in

the morning, he saw a hundred men digging in his garden. Full of surprise and anger, he sent to demand the reason of so strange an appearance: they replied, "that it was by order of the King, and this was all they knew about the affair." He set off to town, and found his brother-in-law, who soon explained the whole mystery. The minister felt that it would be most prudent to submit in silence, and therefore said nothing: the King, on his part, never mentioned the subject; and Talpon was put in possession of his former road. I saw him some days after, quite proud of the victory which he had gained over a minister so high in favour. The nobility delighted at the mortification which Count de Bogin had received, considering it as a presage of his disgrace; but they were deceived. The King, who knew his ability, continued

ed to treat him as before : and was satisfied with giving him this lesson of moderation. After the death of King Charles, the Count de Bogin withdrew from public business, and I often visited him in his retreat. I scarcely ever saw a man more engaging and more polite, and whose conversation was more interesting. To a profound knowledge of the affairs of Europe, he joined the greatest clearness in his ideas and in his expressions ; he was also a good husband, and a good friend, upright in his conduct, and loved best by those who knew him most intimately : so that, if his administration did not generally please, it must be attributed more to the necessity of circumstances, than to the natural disposition of the minister.

CHAPTER III.

*Conduct and Opinions of Duchillou in
his new Situation.*

I NOW found myself in a world very different from that in which I had hitherto lived : instead of the simplicity of Mr. Wyche, the plain and innocent manners of his family and his friends, I was incessantly listening to the intrigues of courts ; and witnessing the manners of people of fashion, the overstrained compliments of great men, the duplicity of courtiers, and the pride of nobility. Unaccustomed to such scenes, I was astonished at every thing, and exclaimed against every thing. Mr. Mackenzie and his friends amused them-

themselves with my surprise: they asked whence I came, where I had passed my youth, and whether I wished for the return of the golden age? Such pleasantries were the only answer I obtained to all my reasoning. I perceived, however, that my surprise gave them a good opinion of my morals; and that Mr. Mackenzie was not sorry to have a secretary upon whose probity he might rely. But there was one point of my morality which he did not laugh at; and that was, the rigorous system of truth which I had adopted. It was in vain that he addressed me most seriously upon the subject: I was immoveable; and defended my resolution so sternly, that he at last reproached me with being too dangerous a secretary for a foreign minister; and added, that he should not venture to entrust me with the secrets of his negotiations.

ciations. I removed his fears, however, by convincing him that, with a little address, a man might meet the most adroit politician, and keep his own secret without doing violence to the truth ; and finally persuaded him that probity, combined with firmness, might even in politics be compatible with the strictest truth.

We had then before our eyes a striking example of the confidence which virtue, even carried to an extreme, can inspire ; in preference to the maxims of the world, which are founded upon no principle. The Marquis de Carraccioli, Neapolitan minister at the Court of Turin, had a secretary who had been formerly corrupted by Lord Bristol, Mr. Mackenzie's predecessor at the court of Turin. This man had a handsome wife, whose expences obliged him to seek for some means of support-
ing

ing them ; and one of the most effectual that he employed, was selling the secrets of his master. The reversion of the duchies of Placentia and Guastella to the King of Sardinia on the demise of the King of Spain, had been guaranteed to him by the treaties of Utrecht and Aix-la-Chapelle. The death of the Spanish monarch had just then happened, and the subject of the reversion was in discussion. The courts of Versailles and Madrid entertained the project of breaking those treaties, and of retaining the possessions for the Duke of Parma. The dispatches which the Neapolitan minister wrote to his own court and to the court of Madrid, as well as those which he received, frequently entered into that subject ; and the secretary of the Marquis communicated them to Mr. Mackenzie through me, for a proportionate reward. This
treachery

treachery was, at last, discovered : his master dismissed him without making any noise about the matter, and did not in the least alter his conduct towards me ; he only requested me to point out to him which of his dispatches I had read. I agreed to do so with pleasure ; and as the best means of being accurate, I desired him to shew me all his correspondence. This he did ; and from this general inspection, I learnt many things which otherwise I should never have known.

A still better opportunity presented itself of knowing the secrets of the court of Spain, if the delicacy of Mr. Mackenzie had suffered him to take advantage of it. The Count de Torre Palma, ambassador from that court to Turin, let a packet of dispatches which he had that day received, drop from his pocket, as he was going away after a
visit

visit to Mr. Mackenzie. He observed them a moment after ; and in spite of the temptation of the circumstances of the time, ran after his Excellency, and gave them to him upon the stairs. The Spanish ambassador, affected by this proceeding, came back with him, overwhelming him with thanks, and extolling to excess the generosity of his conduct. This circumstance introduced some anecdotes of the same kind ; among which the ambassador related, in my hearing, an affair which had happened to himself at Vienna.

He thought he had discovered, while at that court, that his dispatches were intercepted. One day particularly he remarked to his secretary, that such a packet must have been opened ; and he was convinced of it a moment afterwards, by finding a dispatch which was not signed, the hand-writing of which

his

his secretary knew to be German and not Spanish, and which he declared was written by one of the clerks in the office of foreign affairs. He even produced some papers that had been given in reply to some of their memorials, which left no doubt of the fact; and they naturally imagined that, in the hurry with which these things are generally done at the offices, the copy of the dispatch had been put into the envelope instead of the original. The ambassador, without loss of time, waited immediately upon the Prince de Kaunitz. He was admitted. "I have to request, Sir," said he, "that you will order your clerks to restore my dispatch, of which they have only sent me the copy, and have kept the original." "Sir," replied the Prince, without appearing at all embarrassed, "I beg a thousand pardons for the trouble you have

“ have had ; these careless fellows are
 “ making such blunders every day.”
 Then ringing the bell, and calling one
 of his secretaries : “ Go, and fetch the
 “ ambassador’s dispatch, Sir, of which
 “ he has only received the copy, and
 “ learn not to commit such blunders
 “ another time.” When the dispatch
 was produced, “ Sir,” said the Prince,
 as he restored it to him, “ I am morti-
 “ fied that their stupidity should have
 “ occasioned you so much trouble :”
 and conducted him very politely to
 the door, without appearing to attach
 any importance to the mistake which
 had produced the visit.

CHAPTER IV.

Acquaintance with Madame Martin.

I ACCOMMODATED myself tolerably well to my new mode of life. The dissipation inseparable from the situation in which I was placed, suited the natural vivacity of my disposition ; and I flattered myself that it would never go so far as to corrupt my heart, when an event which forms an epoch in my history, brought my morality into danger. It was at this time that I became acquainted with Madame Martin, the most beautiful and captivating woman I had ever seen : she was scarcely eighteen ; and had been two years married to the richest citizen of Turin, who
was

was forty-five years old. She had brought him a considerable fortune, the income of which he left to her own disposal. Besides a charming figure, and an expressive and intelligent countenance, she had many beauties both of mind and person ; a lively gaiety, which was frequently followed by an abrupt train of serious and solid reasoning, worthy of Cato himself. She was generous, good, mild, and sensible ; loved retirement or pleasure, according to the humour in which she happened to be ; in short, she was altogether irresistible, and it was difficult to withstand the power of her attractions whenever she was disposed to display them off to captivate those who visited her. She sometimes amused herself with making the trial, and frequently had the satisfaction of succeeding ; for she attracted lovers by her singularity, and re-

tained them by the variety of her character. Some time before she married, the Count de Saluces, a young nobleman of agreeable figure, of high spirit, and possessing courage and talents, was in love with her, and she appeared to favour him ; but her father, who had destined her for M. Martin, would not allow her to see the Count. Her lover, hearing of the father's design of marrying her to another, wrote to her that if she would remain single, he would marry her as soon as he came of age : but owing to the negligence of the person entrusted with the letter, she did not receive it till after her lot was decided. This unlucky disappointment increased her aversion for her husband, and her attachment to the Count ; who paid such assiduous court to her after her marriage, that the jealous husband found means to interest the

the

the minister so far in his favour, as to have the Count de Saluces ordered to his regiment for two years. Madame Martin, offended with her husband, now shut her doors against every body, and could not be persuaded to gratify his ambition of having the best company in Turin at his house. It was under these circumstances, that I was introduced to her by her husband himself, with whom I had been some time acquainted.

This circumstance was by no means calculated to procure me a good reception from her; and she accordingly received me rather coolly; which however did not in the least discourage me. I renewed my visit two days after: and finding her alone, we had a long conversation; with which she was so much pleased, that she invited

me to continue my visits. This I did not fail to do ; and I insinuated myself so completely into her confidence, that an intimacy soon ensued, very different from any she had ever formed before.

She was at first rather surprised that I did not address her in the language to which she had been accustomed from the young men who were in habits of visiting her. She was still more so, when she discovered my way of thinking and my principles. She called me her philosopher ; but she honoured philosophy too much, in attributing to it the power of resisting certain temptations. Religion alone could furnish armour, proof against the shafts of love and pleasure : happily for me, I have never lost sight of that resource, as efficacious as it is salutary.

Such conduct on my part appeared
strange

strange to those who were influenced by different principles : but their surprise was much greater, on seeing me, contrary to all custom, persuading Madame Martin to live upon good terms with her husband ; for when I first became acquainted with them, she had a separate table, and a separate bed. The ascendancy which I began to acquire over her mind began to shew itself first in the change which I produced in her, and afterwards in that which I effected in her family. Her husband was fond of seeing company at his house : I introduced to him the young English noblemen, and other foreigners of distinction, who passed through Turin, and thus formed a very pleasant society. She was pleased with this ; she expressed herself greatly obliged to me, and considered me as the best friend she had.

The Count de Saluces then had leave to return to Turin. He desired to be acquainted with me, and came to visit me. He was a very intelligent young man ; and was one of the small number among the nobility who had applied themselves to the sciences, in which he had made great progress. He was intimate with M. de la Grange, one of the first mathematicians of the age : who was afterwards called, by the King of Prussia, to be the principal ornament of the academy of Berlin, and director of the mathematical class ; and of whom d'Alembert thus wrote to the celebrated Euler :—" He knows
 " as much as we do ; and he will one
 " day know more, for he is only
 " twenty years old." My connection with these two persons, so distinguished in the sciences, proved highly advantageous

tageous to me, and engaged me gradually in those solid studies, which produced the works that I afterwards published.

CHAPTER V.

Important political Anecdotes.

THE King of Spain being now dead ; and the Court of France engaged in a burthensome war, and fearing that the King of Sardinia would take possession of the Duchies of Placentia and Guastalla while she was occupied elsewhere ; she made assurances, through her ambassador at Turin, that she would put his majesty in possession of them at the ensuing peace, or give him an equivalent in money.

Some time after, a pretended Saxon merchant presented himself at the house of Mr. Mackenzie, with a letter from Mr. Michell the British minister at Berlin,

Berlin, informing Mr. Mackenzie that the bearer of the letter was the Baron de Coccei, general of the armies of the King of Prussia; and that he was sent secretly on the part of that prince to make the following proposals to the King of Sardinia: that the King of Sardinia should march troops into the states which had devolved to him by the treaty of Aix-la Chapelle, in consequence of the death of the King of Spain; that he should make himself master of the territories of Milan, Mantua, and Bologna, and of all the countries on this side of the Appenines; and that he should declare himself King of Lombardy. The King of Prussia, at the same time, sent an emissary to the King of Naples, to prevail upon him to seize the Ecclesiastical States and Tuscany, and proclaim himself King of Italy: and considering the King of
Naples

Naples as under the influence of the Court of Spain, he had dispatched to Madrid the Lord Mareschal ; who, under the pretence of going into Spain for his health, had been sent to persuade the King of Spain to acquiesce in that arrangement. The King of Prussia engaged, on his part, to find the Houses of Austria and France so much employment in Germany and Flanders, that it would be impossible for them to interfere in these operations. But both the King of Spain and the King of Sardinia considered the project chimerical, and refused to engage in it. The latter made use of an expression upon the occasion, which described his situation extremely well. He said to the Baron de Coccei, “ that since the alliance
 “ between the Houses of Austria and
 “ France, it seemed as if his head were
 “ placed between open pincers, ready
 “ to

“ to close upon him, whichever way he
 “ wished to move.” The Baron de
 Coccei passed for a Saxon ; and I have
 seen him not a little embarrassed at
 table, when one of the company, by
 way of compliment to him, drank to
 the ruin of the King of Prussia, who
 had done so much mischief to his coun-
 try. One day however, when he went
 to see the monastery of La Superga, situ-
 ated on a very high mountain in the en-
 virons of Turin, he was recognized by
 a Piedmontese who had deserted from
 the Prussian service. This circumstance
 induced him to quit Turin sooner than
 he had intended, though he had already
 relinquished all hope of success. He was
 scarcely gone, when a courier arrived
 at Mr. Mackenzie’s from London, where
 intelligence had been received from Mr.
 Michell of this extraordinary project.
 This courier brought orders to oppose
 the

the negociation, as it tended to overturn the whole system of Europe : but Mr. Mackenzie, who well knew that such an arrangement would not be approved in England, had already represented privately to the Chevalier Ossorio, every thing that appeared to him likely to frustrate the affair ; and he had now to congratulate himself on having so well anticipated the intentions of his Court.

A very short time after (in the spring of 1760), the Bailli de Froulay, ambassador from Malta at Paris, waited upon the Duke de Choiseul, and communicated to him a letter which he had just received from the King of Prussia. This had been addressed to his majesty by the Baron d'Edelsheim ; a young gentleman from Hanau, twenty-two years of age, in whom he had observed a great deal of prudence and wisdom :
and

and who had begged the King to present secretly to the minister of France, as he was charged with some proposals for peace. The Duke de Choiseul was not a little surprised at the measure ; and the more so, as he did not believe the pacific dispositions of the King of Prussia. He even thought that this might only be a plan of that prince, to afford him an opportunity of alienating the allies of France, and particularly the Empress Queen, by informing them that France listened to proposals for peace without their knowledge. The Duke de Choiseul did not, however, communicate his suspicions to the Baron de Froulay ; but told him, in order to avoid all suspicion, that, as a German, the Baron d'Edelsheim should be presented at court by the Count de Stahrenberg, ambassador from their Imperial Majesties, which was done
with

without the Count's having the least idea that he was presenting a secret minister of his sovereign's greatest enemy. The negociation was begun, though the Duke de Choiseul augured no good from it ; and soon after he gave to the Maltese ambassador the answer of the King of France, in writing, which was : that he would listen to no proposals of peace, but in concert with his allies ; adding, that he considered the mission of the Baron d'Edelsheim as at an end ; and that he wished him to leave Paris without delay, to prevent the suspicions which a long stay would create in the mind of the Count de Stahremberg, to whom he had communicated the affair. The young Baron was supposed to be gone, when, fifteen days after, the Duke de Choiseul was surprised to see him at his levee. Offended at not having been obeyed, he caused him

him to be arrested the same night, and committed to the Bastille. The next day, he visited him at his new lodging, apologised to him for the necessity of sending him thither, and told him that it was of consequence the Count de Stahremberg should have no grounds for entertaining the least doubt of the sincerity of his communication ; to which, however, he had exposed him by remaining a longer time than the term prescribed : but that he was now at liberty to depart, and he would give him an escort to the frontiers. The young Baron desired to leave France by the way of Italy ; and came to Turin, where I saw him. He waited upon Mr. Mackenzie ; informed him of the affair ; and added, that his cypher's having been taken away while he was in the Bastille, he begged he would permit him to communicate what

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had happened to the King of Prussia, by means of his correspondence in cyphers with the English minister at Berlin. To this Mr. Mackenzie consented: and I spent the whole night in cyphering the dispatch of the young Baron, which occupied more than forty pages; and by that means brought on a violent inflammation in my eyes. The reply of the King of Prussia was shorter: he seemed exceedingly angry with the Duke de Choiseul; and I recollect one expression of his letter, which was: *If these people at Paris write to you, give them no answer.* The young Baron went afterwards to London, where he was counsellor of the embassy with M. de Kniphausen. I saw him eleven years after at Berlin; at which time he had just been appointed minister from the King of Prussia to Vienna, whither he
 was

was going. Fifteen years afterwards, being at the Duke de Choiseul's at Chanteloup, I found means of leading the conversation to this affair. The Duke was surprised to see me so well informed, and related it to me as I have just mentioned it. I learnt from his narrative that the Baron had, in some respects, disguised the truth in his dispatch to the King of Prussia; for he there said a great deal about the flattering hopes which he had been led to form at Paris for the success of his negociation, no doubt in order to magnify the value of his services in the eyes of his master. But the account of the Duke de Choiseul, sanctioned by the authority of his character, appeared to me the most natural and the truest.

CHAPTER VI.

Marquis de Prié.—Conduct of some young English Travellers.

THE business of Mr. Mackenzie did not occupy so much of my time, but that I found leisure to be often with Madame Martin, and to visit at some other Piedmontese houses : that of the Marquis de Prié, among others, was always open to me ; and this nobleman made me such obliging offers of friendship, that I found myself soon prepossessed in his favour. He had married one of the handsomest women at the court of Turin, of whom he was very jealous ; but he had no suspicion of me, and I was one of the small number

ber of those who had free admission at his house. He was the grandson of the celebrated Marquis de Prié, who had been governor of the Low Countries: he was rich, liberal, fond of shew and magnificence, and possessed a dignity of mind which never forsook him so long as he had the means of supporting his excessive expences; for when he wanted money, he would descend to means unworthy of a great nobleman, to obtain it. He was a subject of the Empress Queen; having a fief in the Empire, near Trieste, which gave him the title of Count of the Empire, and the right of nominating to a bishopric. He wrote once to the Abbé Bentivoglio at Turin thus: “ I have arrived in my
 “ states; and the Bishop has come to wel-
 “ come me, at the head of three thousand
 “ of my subjects. I am going to turn the
 “ course of a river, to build a bridge,

“ and level a mountain. One must do
 “ something in the country to amuse
 “ oneself.” At another time, when he
 had a quarrel with the Count Pertingue,
 his nearest relation, the Abbé Benti-
 voglio, who was equally attached to
 both the cousins, undertook to reconcile
 them. The Marquis wrote to him :
 “ You are like Pomponius Atticus, the
 “ friend both of Cæsar and of Pom-
 “ pey.”

I paid him a visit one morning,
 and found him in bed ; and a table
 placed at his bed side, covered with
 about two thousand pistoles in gold,
 which he had won the night before.
 He was surrounded by some half-starved
 authors and artists, who had already
 heard of his good-fortune. He listened
 to an air from a musician, and sent him
 away with a handful of gold, which he
 took from the table without counting :
 he

he did the same to a painter, who had brought him one of his drawings; and to a poor devil of an author, who had already written a sonnet on his success. At the same time a note was brought to him from a lady, which began thus: "M. le Marquis, having learnt that you yesterday won a considerable sum, I take the liberty of requesting that you will give a mark of your liberality to a poor family, for which I am interested," &c. &c. "There," said he, "see how they write to me;" and desiring the bearer of the note to be called in: "My friend, tell your mistress, that I bestow my charities when I lose." I dined at his house one day with another gentleman, the Chevalier Tomasi: after dinner, he told us that, if we were not engaged, he would give us some music, which was both new and good. We went into a

large apartment, which we found magnificently lighted up. I asked him if he expected a large company. "No," said he, "it is a concert that I give myself; you will be pleased with it." He had collected all the great musicians, both male and female, that Turin could supply. The celebrated Gabrielli sang; Pugnani played on the violin; and the brothers Besozzi played the hautboy and the bassoon. After the concert, refreshments were brought, and a servant came in with a large covered basket. The Marquis lifted up the covering, and took a gold snuff-box out of the basket, which he gave to Gabrielli; a rich sword to Pugnani; an etwee to one, and a watch to another; and sent them all away as much pleased as he himself seemed to be. He was vain; but he was the only person I ever saw in whom that fault was not hateful.

He

He might have said as naturally as the Duke de Villeroi, "Has gold been put into my pockets?" He played very deeply, and very fortunately. He once won ten thousand louis from M. de Chauvelin, the French ambassador: he received half the sum in cash; and bills for the remainder, payable in six months. The ready money having lasted him only three weeks, he sold the ambassador's bill to a Jew of Turin, for a sum of three thousand louis. The ambassador, piqued to hear that his bill had got into the hands of a Jew at so low a price, borrowed what money he wanted of the Prince de Conti: he then went to the Marquis, and demanded his bill. The latter being obliged to confess that he had sold it to a Jew, the ambassador complained to the Chevalier Ossorio, and insisted upon paying the full amount of his bill into the hands
of

of the Marquis. The Chevalier obliged the Jew to return the bill to the Marquis; who thus received, in spite of himself, the full amount from the ambassador. At last, though his friends calculated that, in three or four years, he had won seventy-five thousand louis, and though he had besides very considerable property, his excessive profusion so completely deranged his affairs, that the King of Sardinia was obliged to sequester his property, for the payment of his debts. He then retired to Venice; whence he would never return to Turin, notwithstanding the repeated orders he received from the King: yet he privately undertook a journey to a place within three miles of Turin, where a lady resided to whom he paid his addresses. He found means to gain admission into the house, in spite of the vigilance of her husband, and passed four-and-

twenty

twenty hours in the cellar : but he saw her only for a moment, and then returned to Venice. The King, having heard of this rash action, expressed his resentment : but he paid no attention to his majesty's anger ; and went over to England, where he said that he and the King of Sardinia had quarrelled.

I also made an acquaintance with the Count de Stortiglione, president of the chamber of commerce ; he furnished me with the information which I wanted relative to the manufactures, arts, commerce, revenue, and agriculture, of Piedmont. He was a man very plausible in conversation ; and very fluent upon the duties of men, upon religion, and probity. The word *honour* was constantly in his mouth. He frequently had with him a young man who was very clever at imitating all sorts of writing, both ancient and modern :

dern : he made old paper and old parchment ; and could fabricate a deed of two hundred years date, which would deceive the most experienced notary. At that time it was discovered, that many forged notes of the bank of Turin were in circulation ; and suspicion fell upon Lavini (which was the name of this youth). The Chevalier Ossorio sent for him, and told him that he was accused of having counterfeited the notes which he produced to him. The manner in which he refuted the charge was this : “ My lord,” said he, taking one of them, “ this is really a most
 “ bungling piece of work ; if I had
 “ undertaken to forge bank-notes, I
 “ flatter myself that I should have suc-
 “ ceeded better. I will give you a proof
 “ of it, and I ask only two days to do
 “ it.” Accordingly he produced in that time six bank-notes, one of which he said
 was

was a forgery of his, and he defied the most ingenious person to find it out. They were convinced ; and what had given rise to the suspicion, served as the means of his justification.

This man had more than one talent : he offered me his services, and I availed myself of them. I was extremely desirous of having a detail of the revenues, resources, and expences, of the King of Sardinia : this is the greatest secret of all states, and the information most difficult to be acquired. The information could only be obtained, with accuracy and precision, from one of the ministers of state : no matter ; Lavini undertook to procure it for me. For that purpose, he entered into a negociation with the valet de-chambre of the minister alluded to : who, for three nights successively, took the key of his master's cabinet from his pocket, while he

was

undressing him ; and during the night they were at work making extracts from the books which contained the details upon those subjects. All this was done for the trifling sum of twelve louis, which were divided between the valet-de-chambre and the copyist. It was not without scruple that I entered into this scheme, and I have many times reproached myself for consenting to it ; for though political casuists think lightly of such things, I retained a delicacy which but ill accorded with the tricks of my profession.

The superior talents of the copyist, however, had attracted the notice of government ; who were informed that he had long and secret interviews with the Count de Stortiglione. They were watched closely ; and at last it was discovered that the Count employed Lavini to counterfeit bank-notes, which he

himself

himself put into circulation. They were both arrested, and tried before the senate; when it was found the first forged notes had been manufactured by them in their apprenticeship. They were condemned to be imprisoned for the rest of their lives; and deprived of books, paper, pens, and ink. Being in Turin two years after that event, I learnt that they were still living, and still confined in different castles.

One of the pleasures of my situation, was the acquaintance which I formed with the young noblemen and gentlemen of Great Britain and Ireland, who stopped at Turin in their route to Italy. I say merely *pleasure*: for I never met with one of them whose acquaintance has been of the least advantage to me, or who afterwards received me with the slightest welcome when I returned to England; though I exerted all my power,

power, and devoted a great deal of my time, to procure amusements, and even advantages for them, during their residence at Turin. I was the *dear friend* of most of them, during the time that their friendship was useless; but those who had received most service and attention from me, were precisely those who treated me with the greatest indifference on my return. The English have been much censured for their want of politeness, in not returning, in their own country, the civilities and attentions which they receive abroad. Their defence is, that the neglect arises from their modes of life. No sooner are they returned from their travels, than they are immersed in public business. Most persons of rank in England are members either of the House of Lords or Commons; their parliamentary duties occupy much of their time; and when the

the parliament breaks up, they retire to their country seats. There is some shew of truth in this excuse, but it is by no means a complete justification ; for I have known many among those most engaged in public affairs, who, being really desirous to return the politeness which they received abroad, have found ample leisure for the purpose.

There were among the young men at the academy at Turin, several English youths. The King of Sardinia was extremely anxious that a strict discipline should be kept up in the academy, but the young Englishmen defeated all his attempts. Their spirit of independence would submit to no regulations ; and though the greatest indulgences were granted to them, they still considered every restriction as an insufferable hardship. The variety of characters among them afforded

daily subjects of diversion; for their follies or excesses were never criminal, and served only to display the singularity of their national genius. Some of them indeed were remarkable for their diligent attention to their studies, but these instances were rare: Lord Moray was one of the few. He had masters for dancing, music, Italian, French, and for the civil law; and he made a rapid progress in all his exercises and studies. When he thought himself somewhat accomplished, he began to neglect taking his lessons in their customary order; but when the dancing-master came, he would ask him to hear him play on the harpsichord, and tell him what he thought of his proficiency. He would dance a minuet before the music-master, and request his opinion of his dancing; and each praised that part of his performance which himself knew nothing

thing about : thus also he would speak French to his Italian master, and Italian to his French master ; and both assured him that he had done miracles. Hence Lord Moray wrote to his father, with perfect truth, that he had made great progress in his education, and that *all his masters* were highly satisfied with him.

Mr. Dillon * and the Chevalier Gascoigne, while they were at this academy, made a party to hunt for a day or two, at Rivoli ; when having taken a liking to the sport, they sent for some linen, and informed their tutors that they were going as far as Suza, and would be back in three or four days. While they were at Suza, they learnt that Lord Abingdon had come to Geneva with his dogs, to hunt upon Mount

* Now (in 1805) Lord Dillon.

Cenis. They immediately formed the design of joining his party ; and arrived just as his lordship had finished the hunt, and had left that side of Geneva. They followed him, and did not overtake him till they reached the suburbs of that city. They then recollected, rather late, that they were truants : finding themselves, however, nearly half-way to Paris, they determined on a trip thither. They accordingly set off post ; after having written to their tutors not to be uneasy, as they would return in a few days. Mr. Dillon's tutor, Mr. Needham, was in despair at the absence of his pupil, whom he thought lost : but the other, less concerned, only jested at the affair ; and wrote over his own door and that of Mr. Needham, in large letters, "*Tutors to let.*"

CHAPTER VII.

Singular Debate between Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Newcastle.—Duchillou remains Chargé-des-Affaires from Great Britain at the Court of Turin.

JUST at that time * George II. King of Great Britain died. His death caused a great change in the affairs of Europe, and particularly in those of England. That prince had, for some years, been engaged in a war against France, in which he had acquired much glory. Strongly attached to his possessions in Germany, which the French had invaded,

Q 3

vaded,

* October 25, 1760.

vaded, he pursued with vigour his successes by sea in the most distant regions, and his arms triumphed in all the four quarters of the world.

Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Newcastle were then at the head of the English administration. The latter, who had grown old in the ministry, held the first office in the government: but Mr. Pitt, by his eloquence in parliament, by his popularity, by the grandeur of his designs, and the energy of his mind, had obtained such a superiority in the cabinet, that he was in fact prime minister; and governed almost despotically a people who, though little inclined to yield to arbitrary power, are sometimes reduced by their attachment to popular leaders. The Duke of Newcastle had been thirty years in the ministry, and was then at the head of the Treasury: the department which, in England, bestows
all

all employments; from which, under the King, flow all favours; and which, from these causes, constitutes the person holding it the prime minister. But Mr. Pitt had silenced the Opposition; had formed all the plans for the war; and had left to the Duke of Newcastle the care of finding money to carry these into execution, as well as the pleasure of giving such places, as did not depend upon his measures. They frequently differed in opinion; but Mr. Pitt always carried his point, in spite of the Duke. A curious scene occurred on one of the occasions:—It had been proposed to send Admiral Hawke to sea, in pursuit of M. de Conflans. The season was unfavourable, and even dangerous for a fleet to sail, being the month of November. Mr. Pitt was at this time confined to his bed by the gout; and was obliged to receive all visitors in his chamber, in

which he could not bear to have a fire. The Duke of Newcastle waited upon him in this situation, to discuss the affair of this fleet, which he was of opinion ought not to sail in such a stormy season. Scarcely had he entered the chamber when, shivering with cold, he said : “ What ! have you no fire ? ” “ No,” replied Mr. Pitt ; “ I can never bear a fire “ when I have the gout.” The Duke sat down by the side of the invalid, wrapped up in his cloak, and began to enter upon the subject of his visit. There was a second bed in the room ; and the Duke, being unable to endure the cold, at length said : “ With your “ leave, I’ll warm myself in this other “ bed ; ” and without taking off his cloak, he actually stepped into Lady Esther Pitt’s bed, and then resumed the debate. The Duke was entirely against exposing the fleet to hazard in the month

month of November, and Mr. Pitt was as positively determined that it should put to sea. "The fleet must absolutely sail," said Mr. Pitt, accompanying his words with the most animated gestures. "It is impossible," said the Duke, making a thousand contortions; "it will certainly be lost." Sir Charles Frederick, of the ordnance department, arriving just at that time, found them both in this laughable posture; and had the greatest difficulty in the world to preserve his gravity, at seeing two ministers of state deliberating upon an object so important in such a ludicrous situation.

The fleet, however, did put to sea, and Mr. Pitt was justified by the event; for Admiral Hawke defeated M. de Conflans, and the victory was more decisive in favour of the English than
any

any other that was obtained over France during the war.

The death of George the Second produced a considerable change in the Court of London. Lord Bute, who enjoyed the highest favour of the new King, saw himself at the head of his councils, and was soon after declared secretary of state. Mr. Mackenzie availed himself of this circumstance to obtain the appointment of ambassador to Venice, where he had many friends whom he was desirous of seeing before he left Italy ; and he stipulated that I should be secretary to the embassy, an office deemed highly honourable in England. The secretaries from most other courts are merely private individuals, dependants of the ambassador : but a secretary of embassy from the court of London has the rank of a minister, with
letters

letters of credence, and a salary of about a thousand pounds; so that persons of the first quality (such as the brothers of the Duke of Richmond, Lord Buckinghamshire, and Lord Grantham) have filled that office in our time.

I was sensibly affected by the kindness of my generous patron; and the more so, as exactly at the time when he gave me this proof of his friendship, he had perhaps some reason to complain of me. There was a very important affair, in which it was necessary for me to act; and in the course of this transaction, he had required that I should answer *yes* instead of *no*, to a question which he knew would be put to me by persons having no right to ask it. The falsehood might, in that case, have been innocent; it could certainly injure nobody, and would even have produced much good: but so rigid was my adherence

herence to truth, that I refused to acquiesce in his demand. He urged ; I persisted, and intreated him not to put me to the trial : but he finally begged me to consider the consequences of my refusal. I seriously reflected upon what Mr. Mackenzie had said ; and yet, in spite of all the evils which I foresaw, I could not help saying the unfortunate *no*. He was so much offended with what he called my obstinacy, that he would not see me for several days. Esteem and friendship, however, at length overcame his resentment : and having, in the mean time, received news of his being appointed ambassador at Venice, and that it was agreed I should be secretary of the embassy, he came into my room where I was confined by illness, and after representing to me the risk I had run of offending him, said that he now restored me to his confidence

dence (which for a time I had forfeited) ; and to give me a proof of it, told me what he had done for me. I was so confounded by this unexpected act of kindness, that I began to make a fine speech, in which I attempted to convince him of my sensibility for his attentions ; but he interrupted me, by taking me into his arms. The affair was consigned to oblivion, and we prepared to leave Turin.

During these preparations, however, Mr. Mackenzie received a courier from his brother, announcing the death of their uncle Archibald, Duke of Argyle. This event deranged our plans. That nobleman had long had the management of the affairs of Scotland, and had been the disposer of all the places and all the favours in that kingdom. It was of consequence to Lord Bute that this department should be in the hands of
some

some person upon whom he could rely, and he thought no one so proper for the purpose as his brother. He therefore desired him to relinquish his embassy to Venice, and repair immediately to London, to assume the office of secretary of state for the affairs of Scotland. However flattering so important an appointment was, Mr. Mackenzie did not abandon without regret the agreeable idea he had cherished of visiting his old friends at Venice ; but thinking justly the proposal which had been made to him, he arranged every thing for his departure. He obtained permission to leave me at the court of Turin, as *chargé-des-affaires* on the part of the King of England ; an appointment which consoled me for the loss of those hopes that I had conceived upon my former destination.

I was accordingly presented to the
King

King of Sardinia and to the whole court, in quality of *chargé-des-affaires*; and though this was the first time I had seen a court, I was not much embarrassed. The Duke of Savoy, however, proposed a very unexpected question to Mr. Mackenzie, relative to me. "His name is French," said that prince: "was he not born in France?" "I was, Sir," replied I immediately; "but I am an Englishman in every thing except my birth." My situation was certainly singular: born in France, brought up in France, I found myself minister from the King of England at a foreign court during a war with France. This was a circumstance which Wilkes and his faction did not fail to urge as a crime against the administration of Lord Bute: but fortunately it made no impression at the time; and though I have every reason
to

to believe that it was noticed afterwards, I notwithstanding received the most signal marks of distinction.

When Mr. Mackenzie was upon the point of setting out, he called me into his closet : “ I have now, my dear Du-
 “ chillou,” said he, “ placed you in a
 “ way to do honour to yourself : you
 “ must not disappoint the good opinion
 “ which I have formed of you. I leave
 “ you my house, my equipage, my
 “ steward, and my servants ; you will
 “ find my cellar sufficiently stocked ;
 “ and as to the rest, I will endeavour
 “ to procure a salary for you : but in
 “ the mean time, you may draw upon
 “ me for the sum of six hundred guineas
 “ a year.” I thanked my benefactor
 as I ought for his generosity towards me. He set out, and I was rather ashamed of myself for being in reality so happy : I reproached myself for not be-
 ing

ing able to shed tears at his departure ; but I was occupied only by what I thought the brilliant situation in which he had left me, and which I was impatient to enjoy. In short, it appeared to me that I was become one of the heroes of romance, and that the most astonishing tales of the favourites of fortune were about to be realized in my person.

CHAPTER VIII.

*Arrival of the Duke and Duchess of
Grafton at Turin.*

I WAS so eager to enter upon my functions, that on the very day of Mr. Mackenzie's departure I wrote a dispatch to Mr. Pitt, having withheld some intelligence from my principal for that purpose. I then ordered my equipage, went to Court, and paraded the public *promenades*. I must however do myself the justice to say, that in this I was not at all influenced by the silly vanity of obtaining the admiration of others, and still less by self-importance: I knew too well that I was only the jackdaw dressed out for

a time, in the feathers of the peacock ; and that my time could not last long. But I was desirous of availing myself of this opportunity for seeing the ways of the world and the manners of a court : and of profiting as much as possible by the advantages of my temporary situation. Happily for me, the inflammation which had been brought upon my eyes by cyphering the dispatches of the Baron d'Edelsheim still continued ; I say happily, because this inconvenience, which had become painful, obliged me to lead a more retired life than it was otherwise my inclination to do. But I was by no means distressed about it ; on the contrary, I knew my own weakness so well, that I was even then sensible of the benefit which I derived from the misfortune. I was constantly reflecting on this maxim : that all the events of life may produce

either good or ill, and that it depends upon ourselves to turn them to our benefit. In this case, I derived the greatest advantage in giving myself up, as I did, to the society of men of letters, with whom the Count de Saluces made me acquainted. Though my eyes did not allow me to read, I at least had ears to draw from their conversation something useful to me.

I endeavoured also to become acquainted with persons who might be of service to me in my correspondence with my court. The abbé Bentivoglio appeared to me the most proper for that purpose. He was a man of wit and intrigue, and lived in the closest confidence with the Chevalier Ossorio. He was gay ; and loved a good dinner, and a game of chess. I had excellent wine, was fond of chess, and was naturally chearful ; thus we agreed together

together wonderfully, and he devoted to me the greatest part of the time which he did not spend with the Chevalier Ossorio. Though this connection did not lead me wholly into the secrets of the state it served at least, to prevent me from making wrong conjectures, and frequently procured me such information as was calculated to bring me into credit with the English ministry; and accordingly I had the satisfaction of receiving the approbation of the King, and of the Secretary of State. One occasion, in particular, occurred, which proved that I was not wholly unentitled to it.

It was feared, at the Court of London, that the King of Spain would join France. I found means to learn, at that time, (October 1760), part of a dispatch from the Spanish court, in which M. de Squillaci said, that the

King his master would not long remain a quiet spectator of the war ; and I communicated this information to my court. Such a disposition, so well ascertained, induced Mr. Pitt to propose in the cabinet, that Great Britain should anticipate the measures of the Court of Madrid, and commence hostilities. The Court of London did not think proper to adopt this advice : he persisted in offering it; but being out-voted in the cabinet, he chose rather to resign his office, than to render himself responsible for the errors of which, in his opinion, they would be guilty, by delaying a declaration of war against Spain. This circumstance was the actual cause of Mr. Pitt's retirement from office. He was succeeded by Lord Egremont.

Thus far I had proceeded smoothly in my new career, when I learnt that
the

the Duke and Duchess of Grafton, who were at Geneva, intended to pass some time at Turin.

The Duke of Grafton, a descendant of Charles II. King of England, was a relation of the King of Sardinia; who, in speaking of the arrival of the Duke, went so far as to say, that no one could please him more than by paying attention to the Duke and Duchess, and rendering their stay at Turin agreeable. This declaration did not fail to excite, in many ladies of the court, a desire of shewing their zeal to the King; and all were eager to have the distinguished honour of presenting the Duchess at court. It was necessary to obtain my sanction for that purpose: and the Countess de Saint Giles was the first who solicited me for that favor; to which I replied merely by a bow,

intended to express neither acquiescence nor refusal. She however considered the affair as settled : I, on the contrary, had other ideas upon the subject.

It is necessary to say a few words respecting this lady, who for a long time made so conspicuous a figure at Turin.

The Countess de St. Giles had already been more than thirty years in the gay world; she entered it at the age of seventeen, when she married the Count de Saint Giles; and then appeared with all the charms and advantages that can be derived from youth, wit, beauty, and a natural gaiety which never deserted her. She was fond of company; received large parties; and her house became the rendezvous of the first people in Turin, and of all foreigners

foreigners of distinction. By these means the Countess became mistress of the secrets of the city and of court, and had acquired an unbounded influence. Her manners were so amiable and engaging, that she won the esteem of most of her acquaintance ; and as to her enemies or her rivals (for who is without them ?), she was able to overawe them by the power and number of her friends. She professed particularly a great predilection for the young English ; and when near fifty years old, she inspired Lord Charles Spencer and Mr. Boothby with a passion of which I myself was a witness.

From the time of my first frequenting the house of Madame Martin, the Countess experienced a considerable diminution of the number of English noblemen among her guests ; for I conducted

ducted all the former to my friend's, where they were better amused. This circumstance had incensed her against me, but she was still more enraged when, wishing to oblige the Marquis de Prié, I applied to the Marchioness his lady to present the Duchess of Grafton.

When the Duke and Duchess arrived, they alighted at an hotel: where I waited on them, and offered them my house; which, by the by, was not mine, though I conceived I might take the liberty of disposing of it. They declined my offer: but came to dine with me the day after, with the Marquis and Marchioness de Prié. The Duchess was delighted with the Marchioness; who really was a very amiable woman, and paid her every possible attention. The Marchioness accompanied the Duchess to court; the Duke had an interview with the King, and

and had the honour to sup with the Duke of Savoy. I repeatedly requested them to take apartments in the house I occupied ; and they were so ill accommodated at the hotel, that they agreed to my proposal. I supplied them with an elegant equipage which had belonged to Lady Betty Mackenzie, and gave up my box at the Opera to them. I gave a grand assembly and ball to the Duchess, in order to introduce her and the Duke to the principal nobility of Turin ; and I procured them so many amusements, that instead of eight days, as they at first proposed, they remained at Turin eight weeks.

I was so little acquainted with the state of English domestic politics, that I was ignorant of the Duke of Grafton's being at variance with the court. His principles were opposite to those of the ministers, and he had refused to

concu

concur with them in the measures which they pursued. During certain administrations in England, it was deemed almost a crime to hold any connection with those who were of the opposition party; and my friends in London trembled for me, when they learned the attentions which I had paid to the Duke and Duchess of Grafton. Fortunately, however, I had to do with reasonable people: the King saw that I was not yet initiated into the intrigues of parties; and was satisfied by laughing, with some of my friends, at my mistaken zeal for my illustrious guests. I was informed, however, of the injury which I might have done myself, and was mortified at my mistake; but the Duke of Grafton, who perceived my embarrassment, had the delicacy to extricate me from it. He hired other apartments in the town; and
far

far from hinting that my scruples had exposed him to any inconvenience, he was the first to quiet my apprehensions on that head, and seemed to be still better pleased with me than before his removal. On my return to England he invited me to see him, and offered me his services of which however, I never availed myself.

I can never be brought to think that the ministerial displeasure should fall upon all who are attached to the party in opposition to the measures of the Government. That they who support those measures should obtain favours, is but fair; but that the subalterns, who from honour, from friendship, and sometimes from gratitude are attached to powerful noblemen of either party should become victims to their sentiments of honour or delicacy, is a maxim which, I have always condemned as unjust,

unjust, however necessary it may be to statesmen. As for myself, I am of opinion that my insignificance availed me more perhaps than any other consideration : besides, I had had the good fortune to acquire friends among all parties, and no new ministry could be formed, which would not enable me to console myself for the retirement of one by the accession of the other.

CHAP.

CHAPTER IX.

*Character of the Piedmontese.—Duchil-
lou leaves the Court of Turin.*

THE Piedmontese have many amiable qualities. The people of rank are courteous and brave: extremely attached to all foreigners, except the French; against whom they have a natural antipathy, arising from their having been almost constantly at war with them. They are very inquisitive; and expert in finding out people's characters, particularly those of strangers. Having nothing to do but to gossip, the most trifling subject is always argued till there is nothing more to say upon it. Whenever a stranger arrives who

merits

merits their attention, they instantly visit him, shew him every politeness, and enter into conversation with him : and at night, in their parties, every thing they have learnt, and every thing that has been said, is canvassed again ; and the new-comer is better known in Turin in three days, than he would be in Paris or London during a residence of as many months. The inhabitants are naturally well-disposed, but they are not destitute of cunning ; on the contrary, they are indefatigable in devising means to accomplish any object they have in view. They are docile, sociable, and industrious.

The women of Turin are very handsome ; their complexion is finer than that of any other females in Europe, but they are not so well formed as the English women. They are lively, witty, amiable, and fond of those little tricks
which

which are natural to the sex in all parts of the world, and which prevail more or less, in proportion to the degree of gallantry in vogue. Though the Court be rigidly circumspect, the ladies of quality, and the wives of the principal citizens, do not deviate from the ordinary course, which is to have a friend, or a declared lover, who accompanies them every where. The only reserve used is, that during the first years of marriage, until the husband has an heir, the family chooses the friend who is to attend on the young wife, and who is generally such a one as there is nothing to be feared from : but in a few years they grow less fastidious in this respect. In general the ladies are disposed to gallantry ; some naturally, and others from fashion, and to avoid the appearance of not being worth notice. There are some of these connexions, however,

which are very innocent ; but instances of this nature are very rare.

M. de Chauvelin, ambassador from France to the Court of Turin, did me the honour to wish that I might be of the parties which he frequented. I could not go to his house, because our sovereigns were at war, but I met him at the houses of our friends : he was very amiable ; and, as I sought every opportunity of paying polite attention to him, he called me the civil enemy. I forgot to mention, when speaking of the Duchess of Grafton, how great an admirer she found in the ambassador ; who though he could not visit her at her house, or receive her at his own, went wherever she was to be met with, and was at all the entertainments which were given to her. About this time, Martinico, Guadaloupe, and several other French islands, were captured by the
English

English. One day, the French ambassador having employed many arguments for the purpose of persuading the Duchess to delay her departure, said to her: “ Ah! your Grace, what
 “ can I say? I would offer you an
 “ island to induce you to remain with
 “ us, if we had any; but you have
 “ taken them all.”

My residence at Turin was in every respect the most pleasing, when I received a dispatch from Mr. Mackenzie, informing me that Mr. Pitt (afterwards Lord Rivers) had been appointed envoy-extraordinary at the court of Turin; ordering me to remain there until his arrival, for the purpose of acquainting him with the exact state of affairs, and then to return to London, where he had occasion for me to assist him in the new department to which he had been appointed. This intelligence afflicted me

exceedingly: it put an end to the dreams in which I had indulged, and placed before me the prospect of future dependance, and a mode of life very different from that which I now led—but I was obliged to submit. After some time, however, I perceived that solid advantages might be expected from the change; for I knew Mr. Mackenzie too well not to be convinced that he would never leave me unprovided for. He had the power, and I was convinced that he had the inclination.

Mr. Pitt arrived: I remained two months with him, and then set out (on the 12th of May, 1762) with passports for France. I travelled in company with the Marquis of Tavistock, son of the Duke of Bedford, who some years afterwards lost his life in consequence of a fall from his horse while hunting. He was a very amiable nobleman, generally
esteemed,

esteemed, and sincerely regretted, not only by his friends, but by the whole country, to whom he had endeared himself. Mr. Needham (so much abused since by Voltaire) and some other Englishmen, were of the party. We arrived at Paris, where I found an order from Mr. Mackenzie, desiring me to wait upon the Bailli de Solar, ambassador from the King of Sardinia at the court of France, and to receive instructions from him as to the time of my departure. Negotiations for peace were then already begun, through the Sardinian ministers, the Bailli de Solar at Paris, and the Count de Viry at London: and it depended upon the turn which affairs might take, whether my presence would be necessary at Paris, where I was ordered to remain during the negotiations. I was not sorry to receive this intelligence; and I
 imme-

immediately took up my abode at the house of an intimate friend, Mr. Vallette, a banker at Paris, with whom I had been particularly acquainted from my infancy.

END OF VOL. I.

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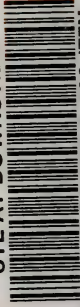
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